

news

significant shorts

Anonymous Labour fund given the all-clear

The Labour Party's fund to raise money from anonymous donors has been given the all-clear by an all-party committee of MPs which decided not to investigate it. The controversial "blind" fund was set up in 1995 as a way of raising money in such a way that the identities of the donors were not known to anyone in the party apart from the board of trustees, chaired by Lord Mervyn Rees, the former Home Secretary.

The fund was the subject of a complaint by David Shaw, the Tory MP for Dover, who last year wrote to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, suggesting it was "inconceivable that a donor would not seek to draw the receiving MP's attention to his donation at some time". However, the Labour Party had taken the precaution of checking with Sir Gordon whether the fund breached parliamentary rules, and Sir Gordon felt he had to refer the complaint to the Standards and Privileges Committee.

Now, the committee has effectively rejected the complaint by deciding that it would only consider the allegation that Mr Blair knew about the identity of donors to the fund and has asked Mr Shaw to provide evidence on that point, which is likely to prove impossible.

Christian Wolmar

Child hammer victim was tortured

Detectives hunting the killer of Lin and Megan Russell revealed yesterday that Lin was bound and gagged during the hammer attack and a shoelace tied round her six-year-old daughter's neck to make her comply with the killer's demands.

Lin, 44, and Megan were found bludgeoned to death on a footpath near their home in Chilenden, near Canterbury, Kent, on 9 July last year. The mother's elder daughter Josie, nine, survived the attack.

'Mail' escapes contempt charge

The newspaper which branded five unconvicted men as the murderers of Stephen Lawrence will not face contempt of court proceedings. The office of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, said yesterday: "The Attorney General has considered carefully the suggestion that articles published by the *Daily Mail* following the inquest into the death of Stephen Lawrence might constitute contempt of court at common law. He has concluded that proceedings for contempt would not be justified."

Alcoholic surgeon cleared by Sheriff

An alcoholic surgeon was yesterday cleared of causing the deaths of two elderly patients who died following operations he performed.

In a ruling into the deaths, Sheriff Principal Gordon Nicholson found surgeon Gerald Davies, 49, could not be held responsible for the deaths of Lothian patients Willie Callaghan, 69, of Bridgend, and 56-year-old Ann Halloran, of Livingston. Both died after undergoing bowel operations carried out by Mr Davies at St John's Hospital, Livingston.

Twelve arrested on abuse charges

Twelve people have been arrested following a major investigation by police into child abuse. Seven children, aged between four months and eight years and from two households, have been taken into emergency care as a result of the inquiry.

Police made the arrests early yesterday morning when they executed eight warrants in Portsmouth and went to another address in Aldershot, Hampshire.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Austria	...Sch40
Belgium	...Bf90
Canada	...Pc300
Cyprus	...Gf120
Denmark	...Dk18
Iraq	...Af5
France	...F14
Germany	...DM5
Greece	...D450
Luxembourg	...Lfr9
Ireland	...Irl50
Italy	...I450
Malta	...Ms25
Norway	...Nk20
Portugal	...Pc25
Spain	...Ps300
Sweden	...Sk21
Switzerland	...Sh40
USA	...\$3.00

Bank rates of the *Independent* are available from Heston Newspapers, telephone 01985 846372.

He'd like to talk to you about conditions in prison

READY TO LISTEN?

Every prison has a Board of Visitors - a group of ordinary members of the public who monitor the running of the prison and provide an impartial voice for prisoners.

Members of the Board are appointed by the Home Secretary and report to him on all aspects of prison life.

To join us you won't need any special qualifications - common sense and the ability to keep an open mind are the most important qualities - together with the commitment to spend about two days each month talking to prisoners and prison staff. There is no age limit but young people are particularly encouraged to apply.

We can't offer you pay, but we will cover your expenses, and give you complete freedom of access to the institution you represent. In short it's the kind of challenge that brings its own rewards.

To find out more, complete the coupon and send it to:

Recruitment Section, Home Office, Boards of Visitors, 3rd Floor, Horseferry House, Dean's Ryle Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2AW.

BOV
BOARDS OF VISITORS

The Independent Prison Watchdog

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Name
Address

Postcode

Ref: TI

people



Dr Carey: "What matters is your own integrity, what you really believe in" *Photograph: Tony Pistor*

Essex Archbishop captured by fly on the vestry wall

Second only to the Royal Family in the British establishment, the Archbishop of Canterbury is a modest Essex man who keeps his wife's teddy bear in the bedroom, supports Arsenal Football Club and has a gentle sense of humour.

This is the picture of Dr George Carey to emerge from an unprecedented fly-on-the-vestry-wall documentary series, to be screened across the ITV network next month, which sets out to show both the public and private sides of the first working-class head of the Church of England.

But above all, the series shows, he is a man of unshakeable faith, with a determination to make the Church face up to the realities of the end of the 20th century. "My wife tells me that I have 100 good ideas every day but only one is good. But if I am convinced that an idea is God-given it will take a lot to knock me out of the driving-seat," he tells viewers.

And when the Radio 4 broadcaster John Humphrys pushed hard for Dr Carey to comment on adultery, following the announcement of the Prince and Princess of Wales' divorce, he revealed what can only be described as an irreverent wit. "Nasty man," he smiled to his press secretary when the microphone was switched off.

Dr Carey grew up in Dagenham and is proud of the

fact that he can call himself a true Cockney, born within earshot of Bow Bells. Although he was brought up in a God-fearing family, his parents did not go to church, chiefly because his mother did not have a hat.

His determination to succeed stemmed from failing his 11-plus exam, after which he vowed that "by hook or by crook I was going to get there". He originally wanted to join the Merchant Navy as a radio operator but ended up in the RAF and it was there he found his calling.

On being told by a young ordinand that he would "never make it" he became determined to push the doubters wrong.

Dr Carey met his wife, Eileen, in 1960, when he was 20 and she was 17. They had met at their local parish church in Dagenham.

Nowadays, when the couple have a few days off, they escape to their flat in Bristol, where they read, "talk a lot" and play Scrabble. "She nearly always wins so I learn the grace of humility when I play with her."

Despite being troubled by what he perceives as society's moral shortcomings and frequently depressed by his portrayal in the media, he is still able to draw on "an inner reservoir of cheerfulness".

"You have to say 'don't worry about it, that will one day be forgotten. What really matters is your own integrity, what you believe in!'" Kate Watson-Smyth

Future is all in the past, says Clarke

A technology that was barely nascent 25 years ago let the scientist and author Arthur C. Clarke (right) sit at home in Sri Lanka yesterday and offer his vision of the next quarter-century to a conference in London.

Via a satellite video link, Dr Clarke, 79, predicted Dick Tracy-style high quality wristwatch video telephones by the end of this century, and a computer at least in every village - if not every home - in the developed world.

The key to understanding the future was the evidence of the past, he told the Convergence 97 conference, whose theme is the convergence of computing, media and communication industries. "Twenty years ago most offices did not have a fax machine, and still used typewriters. Now the fax machine is being replaced by e-mail and the typewriter is almost redundant," he said. "But all this is just a beginning. Everyone will soon have access to everyone else."

However, he said he feared some of the consequences of changing technology - especially the information explosion and what he called "information pollution".

Dr Clarke is best known for the book and film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and its sequels. The lat-



est book, *3001*, is published at the end of this month.

He is famous for predicting satellite communication back in the 1940s, and has published numerous serious scientific papers dealing with emerging and anticipated technology, as well as dozens of best-selling science fiction novels and his well-known "Clarke's Laws".

He ended his speech yesterday with a light-hearted warning to conference delegates, telling them: "Maybe our successors, the computers and intelligent machines, which will be running the world for us, will get fed up with humans and get rid of us. If they do, it will serve us right."

Charles Arthur

Bangkok connection for Queen's new press assistant

A Briton who went to live and work in Thailand after university, and was asked to help with the Queen's state visit to Bangkok last year, has been appointed as assistant press secretary to the Queen.

David Tuck, 30, will take up his new appointment next week, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

He fills the vacancy created by the promotion of Penny Russell-Smith to be deputy press secretary, when Geoff Crawford succeeded Charles Anson last month as press secretary.

Mr Tuck, who was educated at Westminster School and University College, London, worked for the British Embassy in Bangkok after deciding to stay in that part of the world.

He was not a career diplomat but was employed locally at the embassy, said a Palace spokesman.

Since 1995 he has been head of the British Trade Office in Vientiane, Laos, but last year agreed to return to Thailand to help with press arrangements for the Queen's visit.

Blokeish Baker's bubble finally bursts

Like the bubbles in the football fans' song, Danny Baker, the motor-mouth radio and TV presenter, may have climbed too high. Baker, the embodiment of 'bloke' culture, was yesterday sacked by BBC Radio 5 Live for encouraging fans to make a referee's life hell after the official awarded a controversial penalty in the Leicester v Chelsea FA Cup tie last night.

Baker made his name as the football fans' champion on London radio station GLR in the late Eighties, before presenting his own BBC 1 chat show and endorsing soap powder. Recently he has returned to radio, although he is still a scriptwriter for his friend Chris Evans' *TFI Friday* show on Channel 4.

During his Wednesday evening radio show last week he also encouraged journalists to: "Go out and doorstep the referees like he was a member of Oasis". Baker harangued callers to his show, *The Baker Line*, who disagreed with his view of the penalty.

Last November he got into trouble for telling Tottenham Hotspur fans, angry at their team's performance, to throw their match programmes onto the pitch - which is against the law.

Roger Mosey, controller of Radio 5 Live, said Baker's outbursts could no longer be tolerated. "This wasn't the first occasion when he crossed the dividing line between being lively, humorous and controversial and being insulting to the audience."

Baker refused to continue working for Radio 5 Live on his Sunday afternoon show, but will stay with GLR on the time being.

But not all of his bubbles have burst. Talk Radio, the commercial radio station which made a failed bid to lure Chris Evans when he walked off Radio 1 in January, claims it will have Baker on air "in the very near future".

Paul McCann

briefing

HEALTH

Shortage of medical staff in NHS casualty units

Britain's casualty departments lack doctors, nurses and intensive care beds, says a survey published today. Intensive care beds make up only 1 per cent of all NHS beds, compared with 6 per cent in the US, and mortality rates are higher.

Nine out of 10 accident and emergency consultants said that medical staffing levels were inadequate, while three-quarters thought that nursing levels were too low. Many said that they were working at or beyond safety limits.

The survey, commissioned by the Association of London Government and UNISON, found that the situation in London was especially acute, following the closure of almost 3,000 of the capital's beds (14.2 per cent) since 1991 - twice the national average rate. Bed occupancy rates in London hospitals are 95.100 per cent, well above the recommended level of 80-85 per cent, which would allow for emergency admissions.

AdE: NHS in Distress, NHS Support Federation. Tel: 0171 633 0801. Annabel Ferriman

UTILITIES

BT discounts are false economy

Most domestic telephone users would still be better switching from BT despite its discount schemes, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. Its research was published as figures showed some 87,000 customers a month are leaving BT for cable telecom companies - an increase of almost 50 per cent on the last published rate of 60,000 a month.

The analysis by *Which?* magazine found that BT remains the most expensive option for most consumers, with many saving up to 20 per cent by switching to other providers.

When all the companies were compared using a typical quarterly bill, including rental costs and all UK calls, all of BT's rivals were cheaper, even after the widely advertised discount schemes were taken into account. Only people whose calls were less than £12.69 per quarter got a better deal from BT than the cable companies. Those which came out best were Bell, Cabmedia, Cable London, ComCast, Teesside, Ionica and Nynex - consistently a fifth or more cheaper.



EMPLOYMENT

Women face pay discrimination

Women are out of work for shorter stretches of time than men, but still suffer from pay inequality, an official report claimed yesterday. A third of unemployed women have been jobless for less than three months, compared with 22 per cent of men.

Around 28 per cent of women have been out of work for longer than a year, well below the 45 per cent of long-term unemployed men, according to *Labour Market Trends*, produced by the Office for National Statistics.

The average hourly wage for full-time women workers is £7.80 per cent of that for men (£3.75). Part-time earnings are roughly the same for both sexes, at just over £5 an hour.

The number of women with jobs has increased by 1.3 million in the last decade. Half of those are part-time workers. Overall, women form an increasing proportion of the workforce, representing more than 43 per cent last year, the report said.

FINANCE

Trial tarnishes taxman's image

A quarter of finance directors have lost faith in the Inland Revenue in the wake of the corruption scandal surrounding maverick tax investigator Michael Allcock. According to a survey published today, the finance chiefs said the affair was a "poor reflection of the Revenue's management control".

Allcock was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey last month for taking bribes. The former inspector was convicted of six charges of corruption - but cleared of five others. The case has shaken the Revenue to its 300-year-old foundations.

The survey of 200 finance directors, conducted by *Accountancy Age* magazine and Reed Accountancy Personnel, found a quarter also believed Allcock was "unlikely to be an isolated incident". One said: "It has shattered my respect for their integrity."

SCIENCE

Healing properties of tobacco

Tobacco could one day be good for us - or at least tobacco plants might, by producing artificial blood. A team of French scientists has genetically modified tobacco plants so that they produce haemoglobin, the molecule essential for carrying oxygen around the body, in their roots and seeds.

The genes for two different protein "subunits" are needed to make haemoglobin, and have to be assembled into the correct formation. When the researchers added the genes to the plant, they found that haemoglobin was produced - and that when extracted and purified, it functioned just as in the human body, binding both to oxygen and to carbon monoxide.

Going bananas over mutton dressed as art

Phil Reeves

Moscow

There are black eyes and cut lips. There are scores of courageous witnesses. There is a crime scene, stained by a pool of blood. And there is a decapitated corpse. A cut-and-dried case, you might think?

Nothing is that easy in the world of performance art. The sacrifice of a sheep at an art fair in Moscow and the ensuing fight pitch critics and freedom of expression in a squabble which rivals that over Damien Hirst's notorious cows. It happened at the fair's opening at Moscow's Central House of Artists. The moment they saw performance artists from Kazakhstan hanging in a sheep, a group of German artists became convinced that it was doomed to die. They pleaded for its life. They organised a petition.

One of their number – Simon Stockhausen, son of the composer – played the saxophone to the animal, to calm it down. All in vain. Watched by dozens of horrified guests, the Kazakhs slaughtered the sheep, smeared its entrails over their bodies, and drank the blood

from sacrificial cups. It was, one told the *Moscow Times*, a painless traditional ritual – or legitimate performance art.

The Germans, a group called Banane, disagreed. They specialise in the less bloodthirsty "art" of spraying bananas on world monuments, and have already left their mark on the Kremlin gates. After hearing shrieks from the guests, they stormed the Kazakhs and launched into a five-minute fight in which the exhibit – an abstract affair involving blood, milk and blue water (the colours of the Russian flag) – was wrecked. The Kazakhs have since been banned from the exhibition. But the arguments go on. The Germans are still furious, saying the Kazakhs achieved nothing more meaningful than cruelty. But, worse, they were also passed, as sacrificial art first began in the sixties. "This kind of sacrificial art is clichéd now," said Thomas Baum-Gärtel. But the Kazakhs have their defenders, including one of Moscow's top gallery owners, Marat Gelman, host of several Kazakh chicken slayings, who accused the Germans of "shocking snobbery", and ignoring national traditions.



Fruity flavour: Helmut Kohl and Boris Yeltsin made from banana shapes by the German Thomas Baum-Gärtel at the Central House of Artists in Moscow. Photograph: Reuters

BBC sells its beasts, toffs and Daleks to the world

Rob Brown
Media Editor

Brighton brightened up yesterday, but the sudden burst of sunshine didn't cheer everyone on the rain-sodden Sussex coast. The improvement in the weather was an unwanted distraction for a weird bunch of people who were perfectly content to huddle indoors and watch television morning, noon and night.

On Sunday afternoon the Brighton Centre was taken over by 400 television executives drawn from 90 broadcasters in 40 countries.

Once again, programme buyers from all parts of the globe came, saw and concurred that no other media organisation anywhere on the planet can match the British Broadcasting Corporation in the consistent quality stakes.

This was the 21st anniversary of BBC Showcase, an annual jamboree in which Auntie Beeb pitches her best programmes to an admiring multi-lingual audience.

But what started off as an amateurish little affair involving a quick trawl through the archives and a few trestle tables has ballooned into one of the biggest events in the broadcasting calendar.

Auntie is becoming an ever more aggressive exporter as she endeavours to supplement her license fee income by developing the BBC as a global media brand.

Ruby Wax, Sir David Attenborough and Michael Palin have all been brought down to Brighton to sprinkle some star dust on the grey promenade.

BBC Worldwide, the organ-

isation established to pursue this enterprising strategy, generated £131m from programme distribution last year, bringing £77m in gross value to the BBC. Its aim is to treble this commercial return during the current 10-year charter period. Directing its international distribution network is a 30-year-old Hispanic-American woman called Fabiola Arredondo. Head-hunted from the German media giant Bertelsmann, she has clearly heen in her element over the last four days, using her multi-lingual skills and negotiating nous in order to cut an endless succession of instant deals.

An amateur little affair has ballooned into one of the biggest events of the calendar

"I see a real opportunity for the BBC to develop a terrific brand which has, up to now, been rather under-exploited internationally," she says, weaving her way through the tightly-packed viewing booths.

The 400 buyers are each assigned their own makeshift booth, kitted out with a portable television and a video recorder. Apart from a few famous props strategically dotted around the place, such as Del Boy Trotter's beaten-up yellow van from *Only Fools and Horses*,

er and the hideous costumes from *Red Dwarf*, it has the air of a modern university library. Most of the buyers only remove their headphones and emerge from behind behind their hardboard partition when they want to borrow another tape, or stretch their legs, pop out for a quick smoke, and slap down a coffee in the adjoining cafe.

"The BBC has heen the best for years and we're prepared to pay more for its consistently high standards," enthuses Dieter Kaiser, one of a three-strong delegation from WDR in Cologne, during a lunch break at the Grand Hotel.

The Germans, along with many others, are wild about wildlife programming and simply can't get enough from David Attenborough and his colleagues at the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, which is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Since the collapse of Communism, the East European networks have also become steadily bigger customers. Although their resources are limited, they are assiduously cultivated by Maria Burguera, BBC's senior sales executive for Russia and Eastern Europe, who, like her boss, has a Hispanic background.

Serbia's broadcasting corporation was banned from the BBC Showcase at the height of the Balkan conflict, so its head of acquisitions, Nada Pejovic Hadzic, is happy to be back in Brighton for the fourth time in 10 years. "We cover a smaller transmission territory since the death of Yugoslavia, so we need to buy more from abroad to fill our schedules," she said.



Multi-lingual: Fabiola Arredondo, 30, who was head-hunted from a German media giant to direct BBC Worldwide's international distribution network. Photograph: Andrew Hession

Southern African networks have also had a strong presence since the death of apartheid ended the Equity-inspired ban on television exports.

Pauline Cunningham, from the pay-TV service M-Net, is

snapping up all the classic comedy and drama series that her compatriots were deprived of when they were international pariahs. She has brought *Fawlty Towers*, *Yes, Minister* and *To the Manor Born* to M-Net's 1 million subscribers.

She finds her annual trip to

Brighton "far more civilised" than the other big television markets, which are held in more glamourous locations, such as Monte Carlo and Cannes. "We can actually sit back and watch a whole series if we want," she said.

BBC best-selling programmes

Title	Genre	Commercials
The Living Planet	Natural History	92
Fight for the Crown	Natural History	72
Doctor Who	Drama	74
Animal Camper	Natural History	67
The Six Wives of Henry VIII	Drama	66
The Oregon Trail	Natural History	65
Supersense	Drama	65
The Impossible Bird	Natural History	58.5
Tender Is the Night	Drama	62
Ascent of Man	Natural History	62
Fawlty Towers	Comedy	60

Techno Wizardry. Magic Price.

DELL DIMENSION XPS M200s
• INTEL 200MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY
• 16MB SDRAM
• 512KB CACHE
• 3.5GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
• STB POWERGRAPH 64 3D PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2MB VIDEO MEMORY
• 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR 113.75" VIEWABLE AREA
• TWELVE SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
• M10-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
• INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND
• WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95.
£1,299 (£1,555.70)
incl. delivery & VAT



Incredible isn't it? With its fantastic spec and for only £1,299 (£1,555.70 inc. del. & VAT), we're offering a Dell Dimension™ XPS M200s with a Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology. Because it comes with MMX technology, it can run between 10% and 20% faster under today's normal business applications. It includes a powerful 12 Speed CD-ROM Drive and a 3Gb Hard Drive. And, as if this wasn't enough, we're also offering additional upgrades at outstanding prices (see below to upgrade this system further). But you must hurry before the offer vanishes. Call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer® today on 01344 724864 to see what Dell can conjure up for you.

*Subject to

Upgrade Options
Add an additional 16Mb RAM
Add multimedia kit of AWE 32 sound upgrade and ACS20 speakers
Add a 32.6 Internal Modem

Special Price for this Dimension XPS M200s bundle only
Only £100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)
Only £100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)
Only £99 (£116.33 inc. VAT)

(CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF OFFICE 97 UPGRADES.)

DELL®
TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724864

Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.
<http://www.dell.com>

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension™ is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium® are registered trademarks and MMX™ is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. The abridged product may not always match the specifications in the advert. Prices quoted refer to specification descriptions only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Dell supplied with Windows 95. Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Millbank House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1BD. Offer available for a limited period only.

news

Girls on top again, as inspectors say failing schools are full of boys

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

First, the statistics confirmed girls outstrip boys at every stage of their school careers. Now the education world has served up another harsh truth for the male sex - the majority of

schools which are failing their pupils have many more boys than girls.

In its first major overview of the characteristics of failing schools, the inspection agency Ofsted yesterday said gender imbalance was a notable common factor.

Of 260 schools which have been judged to need "special measures" since the inspection cycle began in 1993, not one is girls-only, most are mixed but with a big majority of boys.

Ofsted's survey revealed that failing schools are almost always characterised by poor leader-

ship, underachievement by pupils and a high proportion of unsatisfactory teaching.

The findings held true even though institutions failing their pupils spanned the whole range of schools, from inner-city secondaries to special schools and tiny rural primaries.

Conversely, schools which had failed but were on the road to recovery, or were among the 19 freed from special measures, were united in their tactics for improvement. The most common step, taken by half of those failing, was to replace long-serving headteachers.

Improving schools drew up clear action plans with measurable targets, boosted curriculum planning, tackled poor behaviour and attendance, communicated well with parents and managed their finances efficiently.

Twelve schools on the failing

list have closed so far, though one has shut since last summer.

Ofsted's head of school improvement, Dr Elizabeth Passmore, said the evidence that most failing schools had a high proportion of boys added to the agency's findings in a report last July, confirming girls generally outshine boys in educational performance.

That study, *The Gender Divide*, revealed that girls did better than boys in English from the age of seven and were more successful than boys at every level in GCSE.

Education + in The Tabloid

Poor marking flaws primary tests, says study

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Serious flaws in national tests for 11-year-olds, which will form the basis of next week's Government league tables for primary schools, are revealed in a study published today.

The research from King's College, London, says that the questions and marking of the English tests were so bad that nearly one in four children was given the wrong "level" or grade. Most received a lower level than they deserved.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, originally planned to wait until the tests had "bedded down" before publishing primary league tables but was persuaded by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, to change her mind. Labour said last week that its new literacy targets would be based on the tests.

Government exam advisers who supervised the tests immediately condemned the study as "flimsy".

In science, the researchers found, one in ten children was given the wrong level and some questions were so badly worded that they could be answered by guesswork or without any knowledge of science.

Researchers re-marked 338 test scripts by 143 pupils in ten schools. The expected "level" for an 11-year-old is 4. Pupils

Children's stories

Frannie was a little grey mouse of about two years old. His mother had died when he was only three months old, leaving him all alone in the world.

And later: "Yummy, yummy, yummy in my tummy," said Frannie as he edged nearer to the great slab of cheese."

Examples from a "twee" story awarded a high Level 5 which researchers say was only worth Level 4.

"Kevin was getting really frustrated because it just wasn't his day. He kept missing the ball and was always getting tackled when he had the ball. It was his worst football match ever, and he was never ever. The worst thing was that he had been dropped from the five-a-side tournament because of his play in recent days."

Example from a story awarded Level 4 which researchers say deserved Level 5.

graded Level 5 are two years ahead of their age.

In English, marking mistakes were found in every single paper, in 84 per cent of science ones and 54 per cent of maths scripts. The level changes mainly involved more able pupils, who moved from Level 4 to Level 5.

In story writing, the researchers argue, the markers were prejudiced against topics such as football, adventure and crime, often written by boys, and in favour of twee, "Disneyesque" styles characterised by "little" and "lovely".

Nearly two-thirds of the ques-

tions in the English reading test were unclear, the report, commissioned by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said.

One question asked pupils to say whether or not a boy got on with his brother and to explain their reasons for choosing yes or no. There was no indication that an extra mark was awarded only if they said that he both got on with him and did not get on with him.

In science, says the report, "correct answers could be achieved by a lucky guess." In a question on magnets, for instance, candidates had to choose between the words "repel" and "attract" so there was a 50 per cent chance of obtaining each answer without knowing anything about magnets or the meaning of either word.

Professor Margaret Brown, professor of maths education at King's, says in the foreword: "The study shows that both the tests and the marking have not yet reached sufficiently high standards to justify teacher and public confidence. Its findings are important because of the major consequences of these tests for schools, teachers and pupils."

Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, called the research flimsy and biased. The authority's own study by Bath University of 10,000 scripts from 1,600 pupils had found none of the flaws.



Standing together: Striking teachers on the march in Glasgow yesterday, in a protest against proposed council-funding cuts. Photograph: Drew Farrell

Labour threat to super-grammar

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

Labour could overturn plans to build the first grammar school in Britain for over 30 years if it wins the general election.

The party yesterday pledged to review a scheme for an élite "super-grammar" for the top 5 per cent of pupils in Milton Keynes, which has just been approved by Gillian Shephard, the

Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

The review would take into account two previous local consultations on the proposal, in which a majority of parents were opposed. Supporters of selection are likely to seize on Labour's pledge as evidence that the party remains antagonistic to grammar schools.

However, Labour claims a review would be in line with

making parental wishes paramount, as the consultations revealed six in 10 object to the plan. The party said last month it would not change the status of any existing grammar school unless parents voted for it.

Proposals for a grammar school in Milton Keynes, the only part of Buckinghamshire without a grammar system, have divided parents and local politicians since the scheme

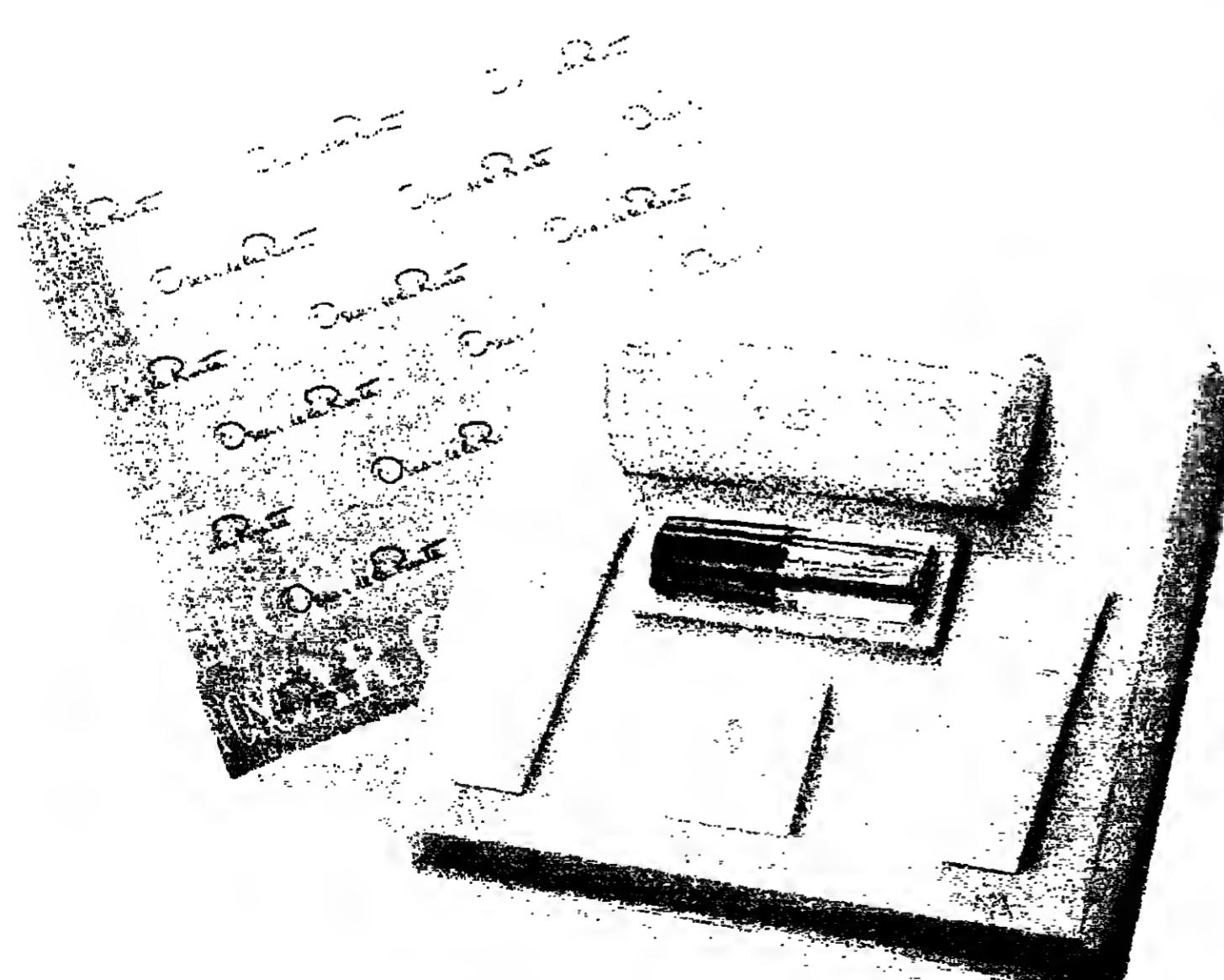
was mooted 10 years ago. Government approval has come only months before a general election and weeks before the handover of control of the city from Conservative-controlled Buckinghamshire County Council to a new Labour-run Milton Keynes unitary authority, following local government reorganisation.

The Labour leadership of the new authority insists the

county has no right to impose its will on a city for which it will soon have no responsibility. On Tuesday night, Milton Keynes Borough Council voted unanimously to continue to oppose the grammar school.

However, under education law, last week's go-ahead from Mrs Shephard means that the city's authority is obliged to put the plan into practice, subject to planning consent.

YOUR OSCAR FREE GIFT



A perfect present, this superb OSCAR gift selection is FREE when you purchase an OSCAR 50ml Eau de Toilette Spray.

The coffret contains an exclusive Oscar de La Renta Cosmetic Pouch, an OSCAR 7ml Eau de Toilette Purse Spray, an OSCAR 40ml Body Lotion Activée, an OSCAR 40ml Body Bath Activée and an OSCAR 17g Antiperspirant Deodorant Stick.

*Available in March from Leading Department Stores and Selected Chemists.

Oscar de la Renta

PARFUMS

* Available through authorised stockists only.
One gift per customer, whilst stocks last.

١٥٠ من الأصل

Evans the Mouth grovels to Major after touch of verbal diarrhoea

Nicole Veash:

John Major's unreserved condemnation of right-wing Tory MP David Evans for racist and sexist remarks made during an interview with a school magazine, sat uneasily yesterday in light of their past relationship. The member for Welwyn and Hatfield, or Evans the Mouth, as he is known in the corridors of Westminster, provoked the humiliating attack from the Prime Minister, after describing his Labour election opponent as a single girl with "three bastard children" who had "never done a proper job".

And in his remarks to sixth-formers at Stamford School, Mr Evans called Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, "dead from the neck upwards" and said the Prime Minister was "vindictive and unforgiving". But the self-made millionaire and cockney swaggered yesterday witnessed how unforgiving his leader really is when he was forced to issue a grovelling apology on Conservative Central Office newspaper, following a strong rebuke by the Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad.

Mr Evans said: "The comments which have been reported were taken out of context. After due consideration, I regret some of the things I said and I apologise to the Prime Minister and to others for any embarrassment or offence which may have been caused."

The party machine ensured there were smiles all round



Victims of Mr Evans's remarks: John Major, Melanie Johnson and Virginia Bottomley

Soundbites from terrier of the back benches

The wit and wisdom of David Evans:
"The Labour Party wobble on everything. Had they been defending British sheep farmers, they would have achieved a load of jelly and red at that." (1992)

"Will the Prime Minister confirm that unlike that lot opposite we will not let Babychan be nationalised and we shall not have to

watch Bambi on television every night." (1994)

"Unlike them lot opposite, we are on this side really united behind our leader." (1995)

"Does my honourable Friend agree with Janice that if that lot

... got their hands on the Brussels cheque book 14 years of Conservative government would disappear like rats up a drainpipe." (1994)

Outside the House, his other

gems include: "Ask any London taxi driver if they'll stop for a coloured fare. They are trouble. The Rastafarians and all that lot don't fit in."

"I don't trust Russians. The more nuclear weapons the better."

"Two-thirds of the unemployed could find jobs."

"People in Britain have become more and more lazy since the Second World War".

his own distinctive points in his own distinctive way".

Mr Evans also earned brownie points from the Prime Minister by following the Brixton boy's lead and cashing in on his own working-class credentials.

Elected to Parliament in 1987, Mr Evans embodies the

Tory bear vote. Staunchly pop-

ulist, his working-class boy-

make-good attitude means that he despises foreigners, the un-

employed, socialists and ho-

mosexuals. His caveman style is best displayed during Prime Minister's Question Time.

In a 1995 session he asked:

"Is it the Conservative Party

who want to split up the UK, or

is it that lot opposite, led by

Bambi, with his 60 quid-a-week

spokeswoman on women's af-

fairs, yesterday marched to

Downing Street with a delega-

tion of 13 female MPs de-

manding that Mr Evans be

de-selected before the general

election. She said his "dis-

graceful comments clearly

made him unsuitable to be a

parliamentary candidate".

Polly Toynbee, page 17

haircut, who want to do so?" He begins nearly all his questions by mentioning his wife Janice, his muse of common sense, and once asked Mr Major whether he was "aware that Janice takes quite a lot of interest in the House?"

But his relationship with the Prime Minister deteriorated last year when he openly backed, and became the main force behind John Redwood's leadership attempt.

In his latest outburst he has received the backing of John Dean, the Conservative association chairman in Welwyn, and the executive of the 1992 committee of hackbenches MPs.

Mr Dean said: "David Evans is a colourful and outspoken MP but what is more important is his incredible ability to stand up for his constituents. I believe strongly that a MP should give their views and stand up for what they believe in."

But in typically stubborn manner, 61-year-old Mr Evans has so far refused to apologise to his Labour opponent, Melanie Johnson, a school inspector and magistrate who has lived with her partner for 18 years.

Janet Anderson, Labour's spokeswoman on women's affairs, yesterday marched to Downing Street with a delegation of 13 female MPs demanding that Mr Evans be de-selected before the general election. She said his "disgraceful comments clearly made him unsuitable to be a parliamentary candidate".

Polly Toynbee, page 17



Foot in mouth: David Evans, who was condemned by John Major for his remarks

Labour to press for peace drive at Peugeot

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Senior Labour Party figures are expected to put pressure on union leaders to sue for peace at Peugeot after the workforce voted overwhelmingly for an indefinite strike.

Labour is concerned that an all-out stoppage at the car manufacturer so near the election would be used as political ammunition by the Conservatives. The vote at Peugeot comes amid tensions elsewhere in the motor industry which are also causing the party concern.

National union leaders meet today to decide their strategy at the French-owned company. Unions are expected to opt for a "breathing space" for negotiations, but they will couple the olive branch with a warning of indefinite industrial action to come in the absence of the deal.

In a turnout of about two-thirds, Peugeot workers voted with a majority of 84 per cent to go on strike at protest a management attempt to chance

"It is now time the company

sat down and addressed our grievances. Negotiation is better than confrontation, but it takes two to negotiate."

A Peugeot spokesman said the vote was disappointing, adding: "We hope that sensible reflection on the part of all employees will prevent serious and potentially far-reaching and damaging consequences."

Labour expressed concern privately recently over the threat of industrial action at Ford in protest at redundancies in the Halewood plant on Merseyside.

The party is also concerned now about unrest elsewhere in the industry. The T&G is currently testing the mood among the 600-strong workforce at Ford-Iveco in Slough where management has announced its intentions to close the plant.

Union officials said that industrial action was unlikely at the works, which is owned by Fiat and Ford, but workers were being balloted on whether they wanted to fight the shutdown or accept redundancy.

It is now time the company

Ulster talks adjourned until after election

David McKittrick
Ireland correspondent

The Northern Ireland peace process yesterday experienced a bang and a whimper - the quiet adjournment of political talks, together with the reali-

DAILY POEM

Azalea in the House

By Anne Ridder

This little shabby tree, forgotten all summer, And crouched in its corner through December frost. Now is brought indoors to keep its promise. It speaks in a blaze, like a prophet returned from the wilderness: The buds throw off their brown extinguishers, burst into flame, and March sees a midsummer feast.

Explosions of sunset, arched on a needle-point. Red parlement of butterflies... I cannot hold it with words, yet summer life While winter howls out there behind the glass. And trees still clench their fists, must be too brief.

Scentless, infertile, kept from moth and rain. Colour is its whole theme. Like those vermilion rose-trees that bloom In picture-books. They never drooped or faded, But this has only a short month to shine, And hours not spent in watching it are wasted.

"Azalea in the House" comes from Anne Ridder's *Collected Poems*, just published by Carcanet Press (£9.95). Two of her translations of opera libretti are currently being performed, in English National Opera's production of Gluck's *Orpheus and Euridice* (at the Coliseum) and Kest Opera's staging of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall).

THIS DORCHESTER KITCHEN FOR UNDER £1300



PRICE BASED ON THESE 8 RIGID CABINETS

COMPRISES:

1000mm H-unit, 600mm L-unit, 2x 300mm L-units, 2x 300mm D-units, 1x 400mm F-unit, 1x 1000mm F-unit, 2x 400mm Bull Under, 1x Bob Wall Unit.

COMPLETE 8 CABINET DORCHESTER KITCHEN

INCLUDES OVEN, HOB, EXTRACTOR, SINK, TAPS AND WORKTOPS

£1251.78

GREAT EXTRA VALUE OFFERS

INTEGRATED DISHWASHER

Current in-store price £269.99

APL8214/24

£199.99

OR £200 OFF

any full size dishwasher from our range.

SHOPPING HOURS: Mon 10-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5

LUXURY WASTE DISPOSAL UNIT

Current in-store price £159.99

WDU820

£79.99

HURRY!

OFFER MUST END 19TH MARCH

COMPARABLE KITCHEN CABINETS GUARANTEED 20% LESS THAN ANY OTHER NATIONAL RETAILER'S QUOTE

See leaflet for further details

© 1997 MFI Home Works Ltd

DAVID AARONOVITCH

The lunacy of our asylum debate

You pays your money and you takes your choice. In Billericay – if Teresa Gorman is to be believed – asylum-seekers are mostly East European men who, after having come over here to watch Szczecin FC in the UEFA Cup, decided that they wished to stay on at taxpayers' expense. In Islington, however, according to Jeremy Corbyn, this group is almost entirely made up of torture victims who have had their fiancées murdered in front of their very eyes.

Yesterday these two diametrically opposed versions of the same reality were laid out with some care. Teresa herself was splendidly attired in a pink-and-white check twin-set, which looked as though it had been run up from a very expensive National Trust tablecloth. She was cross that the courts had found in favour of a group of asylum-seekers, ruling that councils should provide them with basic amenities, now that government itself no longer did.

"Meals on Wheels have to take food to them!" she told horrified MPs. "They have to be given a packed lunch, in case they go out to do a bit of shopping during the day!" Worse, they were given snacks as well. "Snacks!" repeated Ms Gorman for effect. "Snacks!" echoed scandalised members, many of whom can only dream of snacks. Furthermore, these folk needed "hygiene packs", including "toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannel and deodorants!"

The burden of providing all this personal freshness fell upon the poor old people of Westminster, many of whom live on small pensions in Peabody estates and ask nothing from the state, save to be let alone. "Why should elderly people, managing on their modest incomes, fork out for these people who are simply parasites?" she concluded.

Jeremy's case was that we had an obligation to look after those who seek asylum in our country (although if the country is half as bad as Jeremy always says it is, it is amazing that anyone ever bothers). He was interrupted by the choleric Christopher Gill (C. Ludlow) who demanded to know what mandate Mr Corbyn had from the British people "to share their citizenship with foreigners?"

As Mr Corbyn struggled with this piece of ahistorical xenophobia, I was momentarily distracted by the appearance of a steatopygous Sudanese tribeswoman in multi-coloured djellaba and brassiere, who sat silently at the end of the Tory benches. Closer examination showed it to be the Medway sex goddess, Peggy Fennell, come to show solidarity with the Third World. When she was sure that everyone in the Chamber had seen her, she departed again.

All this time David Shaw, the Dover MP – whose majority is tiny, but whose desire to hold on to his seat is overwhelming – had been twitching in preparation for his own intervention in the debate. At last his moment arrived. He did not, he began, "want to see people taking advantage of our compassion".

Now, you'd have to get up pretty early in the morning to take advantage of Mr Shaw's compassion, as the following exchange with fellow Tory Tony Marlow indicates. Shaw had just explained to the House that even with brutal dictatorships there were limits to what could be done. "We cannot take the whole population of Iraq!" he stormed. Marlow intervened: "Why don't they go to Jordan?" he asked: "Why do they have to travel a whole continent to get away?" Shaw concurred, easily. So the next time you see the whole population of Iraq at Dover ferry terminal, trying to enter the country, use your compassion and point out the sign saying "Jordan: 2,000 miles".



Party ties: Cook (left) and Mair sealing their pact. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Lib-Lab pledge to overhaul the constitution

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Labour yesterday promised to offer voters a straight choice between the current, first-past-the-post system and a system of proportional representation in time for a new millennium election.

Some senior party figures appear to have dropped their previous preference for the alternative system, which is not a proportional voting system.

The alternative vote ensures that all MPs are elected by a majority following the elimination of candidates who come bottom of the poll, and a redistribution of voters' second preferences.

Liberal Democrats were yesterday delighted by the agreement between the parties, which they regarded as a climb-down by some senior Labour opponents of electoral reform.

The decision was part of a practical package of constitutional change to "renew democracy", tied up between Labour and the Liberal Democrats yesterday. But the two parties warned that the prerequisite for reform was ending the Conservative culture of the "one-party state", and a change of government at the next election.

The agreement could also overcome the practical obstacles that blocked previous attempts

of reform. Bob Mair, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said yesterday that the history of constitutional struggle was littered with failure.

In the Sixties, he said, "a Labour government with a huge majority failed to reform the House of Lords. In the Seventies, plans for devolution came to nought. Our two parties have to do better."

Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary and the man who led the Labour negotiating team, said: "Both parties have gained from reaching agreement on a comprehensive programme of reform which offers each of us a better prospect of achieving the objectives of our policies on the constitution."

The areas of agreement covered not only devolution, electoral reform, and the removal of the right of hereditary peers to sit and speak in the House of Lords, but also a code of human rights, freedom of information, the independence of the national statistical service, greater scrutiny and accountability for quangos, statutory force for the civil service code, and a modernisation programme for the Commons.

While the Liberal Democrats disagreed with Labour's proposal to hold two referenda on Scottish devolution, one on the

setting-up of a parliament and another on its powers to vary taxes, yesterday's agreement said they "would not seek to frustrate or delay referendum legislation".

Yesterday's statement said that once the initial referendum had been carried, "both parties would support legislation to establish the Scottish parliament within the first session of Parliament after the general election" – by the summer of 1998.

Both a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly would be elected on an additional member system; the proportional voting system which retains constituency seats, but gives an additional proportion of places to the "best losers" among defeated candidates.

This system will be one of the options for an electoral commission that would be given a year in which to propose a referendum choice between the existing first-past-the-post system and "one specific proportional alternative" that would "command broad consensus among proponents of proportional representation".

Mr Cook said he anticipated that the referendum, and any subsequent legislation could take place "in good time" for PR to be introduced for the following general election.

Leading article, page 15

Criticised councils turn over a new leaf

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

Councils criticised for their poor record in providing services have improved remarkably over the past year, according to the Audit Commission's annual local-authority performance indicators.

The figures suggest that nothing works better in improving a council's performance than local publicity resulting from finishing bottom of the commission's published annual league tables.

The commission, the Government's spending watchdog,

says, for example, that the 15 authorities which took longest to relet empty council homes when the commission first produced performance figures three years ago, have improved their performance by 30 per cent and now take an average of 9.6 weeks to relet homes rather than 13.5 weeks.

Similarly, the worst authorities collected only 81 per cent of the council tax due to them and now the average for the bad performers is 86 per cent. A spokesman for the commission

said: "Nobody wants to be at the bottom."

The commission highlights the fact that while overall performance is improving, there are still very large differences in performance between similar authorities. While many manage to complete all or nearly all their land searches, for people buying houses in the local area, within 10 working days, some barely manage to complete any.

Newham in East London does only 14 per cent in the allotted time, while neighbouring Waltham Forest manages 98.7 per

cent. And prices vary widely, with Milton Keynes charging £113.50 for the service compared with £49 charged by another Buckinghamshire authority, Aylesbury Vale.

Similarly, while some authorities managed to assess more than 90 per cent of children in their area with special educational needs within the target time of 18 weeks – such as Newcastle, Southwark and Norfolk – others, like Manchester, Salford and Haringey, did not assess any children within the allotted time.

No authority emerges as the best or worst in Britain, but it is possible to discern successful authorities within each group. The tables highlight Liverpool and Manchester as authorities not giving value for money while Birmingham, Knowle and Croydon all do well.

With so few councils now controlled by the Tories, comparisons of the parties' performance are difficult. However, Labour seized on the relatively poor performance of Westminster, one of the Tories' flagship councils, pointing out that

it spends £56.48 per head on refuse collection and disposal, compared with neighbouring Labour Council's £22.46, and that Westminster has the highest benefits administration cost in the country of £266 per claimant per year.

Labour rather overstretched itself, however, when it claimed that Labour-controlled Thurrock in Essex had the best record for collecting council tax – 102 per cent of the amount due.

□ *The Local Performance Indicators, 1995/6, volume 1 and 2: £15 each, Audit Commission.*

I want more flexible communications

I want to send information faster

I want to reduce my bills

ISDN

From as little as £199* to set up

BT's ISDN service can help give your business a competitive edge, enabling you to access the Internet, send and receive information, e-mail, and do so much more. And with its twin digital lines you can perform any of these tasks at the same time. Because it's digital, ISDN sends information up to four times faster than an ordinary telephone line, and because calls are charged at the same rate*, this means much cheaper call bills for your business.

Call BT BusinessConnections on Freephone 0800 800 800.

Freephone 0800 800 800

Work smarter
not just harder



Freephone 0800 800 800 email: worksmarter@btconnect.com

Peers misled over animal deaths

Ian Burrow

Earl Howe, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, made a personal statement to the House of Lords yesterday warning that Parliament may have been misled over the mysterious deaths of large numbers of animals in the Gulf War.

The scientists, at Edinburgh's Centre for Tropical Veterinary

Medicine, revealed they had no record of the work being done.

Troops who served in the Gulf believe the animals may have been killed by pesticides or as a result of the use of chemical or biological weapons.

The Countess of Mar, a crossbench peer, had asked the minister last July whether there was any evidence that the dead animals had been exposed to nerve gas.

Earl Howe said in reply: "Samples from dead animals were sent back to the Edinburgh Veterinary School and Tropical Medicine Centre [sic] and all were found to have died of natural causes or such things as eating vehicle batteries."

Yesterday the minister told the House that the Ministry of Defence now doubted that this was true and that an investigation was under way to establish the facts. He said: "On Thursday last week I was telephoned in the House by a journalist who told me that his inquiries had led him to believe that my written answers to the noble Countess, Lady Mar on 4th June and 5th July last year, about the deaths of animals during the

Gulf War, were incorrect. I immediately set in hand an investigation.

Early yesterday evening I received departmental advice that there is now considerable doubt over the accuracy of my answers. My Lords, this is a serious matter about which I felt it right to inform the House at the earliest opportunity."

The admission follows an apology in October by Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, that he misled Parliament over the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf. Lady Mar said: "How many more things are we being misled on? I remain absolutely convinced that chemical weapons were used on both sides."

She said troops who served in the Gulf had seen dead but unmarked animals lying on their sides as if they were asleep.

Lady Mar said that Earl Howe, who was clearly furious with his advisers, had personally apologised to her. She has been granted a meeting with the minister's advisers this afternoon at which she hopes to be given further information.

CHELtenham

ALL THE
FESTIVAL
FORM IN
MONDAY'S
BUMPER

The Sporting Life

Send to:	BT Open University, PO Box 626, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diploma and BA/BSc Degree prospectus.	
Name:	U57BK
Address:	
Postcode:	
Tel:	
OU Hotline (24 hours) 01908 379199	
University education and training open to all adults	

مكتبة الأصل

Alert on drug residues in meat

Annabel Ferriman

Just when you thought it was safe to start eating meat again, a report published yesterday warns of another hazard - antibiotic residues in British pork and turkey.

Overuse of antibiotics in the rearing of livestock could ultimately mean there is no effective treatment for humans suffering from related infections, *Which?* magazine warns, as bacteria develop a resistance to familiar drugs.

Tests carried out by the Consumers' Association, and similar organisations in 15 countries, have revealed traces of antibiotics in European pork, turkey, veal and chicken.

The study reveals that Britain had the largest proportion of turkeys affected (7 per cent) and the third largest proportion of pork (4 per cent), after the Republic of Ireland (17 per cent) and Greece (8 per cent). No veal or beef from Britain was tested and none of its chicken samples was affected, however.

Farmers use antibiotics both to treat infection and to promote growth in animals, but their use as growth promoters has been restricted. In practice, however, closely related drugs are used in this way.

The presence of antibiotic residues in food not only increases the likelihood of resistance, but can also affect people who are allergic to antibiotics, and very high doses of one type of sulphonamide has been linked to thyroid cancer.

Sue Davies, the Consumers' Association's acting principal researcher, said: "Antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria are becoming more common. In 1995 over 87 per cent of one particular strain of salmonella was resistant to five common antibiotics. This is serious [because] the number of people who die from it is around ten times higher than for other types of salmonella. The options for treatment are now few."

Tim Lobstein, of the Food Commission in London, said: "If Sweden, Denmark and Germany's consumers, with support from the veterinary profession, are prepared to press for better practices, then why not Britain?"

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

British ferries may be scrapped, forced to cut the number of passengers they can carry or need major work to meet tough new safety standards issued next month by the Government.

Officials from the Marine Safety Agency, which certifies ships, have completed a review of all ferries sailing from the UK, and have identified those craft most in need of work to meet the Government's targets.

The list contains vessels used by P&O, Stena and Sea France. Safety inspectors will not publish the full timetable of work required by the Government until 1 April.

The move comes exactly 10 years after the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, a roll-on/roll-off (ro-ro) ferry owned by P&O, capsized as it left the Belgian port of Zeebrugge on the way to Dover, killing 194 men, women and children. The *Herald of Free Enterprise* sank in a storm off the coast of West Africa while being towed to Thailand in the early 1990s.

The new safety measures go further than the existing 1990 world survivability standards. They will require UK-operating ro-ro ferries to be able to cope with 50 tons of water entering the car deck and stay afloat if holed beneath the waterline. The improvements will cost ferry firms millions of pounds.

Many older vessels could meet the higher standards by attaching "buoyancy blisters" to their hulls or erecting bulkheads on their car decks. The merger between the largest ferry operators, P&O and Stena, which has yet to be cleared by the Government, would also allow older ships to be retired from passenger services and save them from an expensive refit.

Other ships can delay their time in dry dock by reducing the number of passengers - and put off its upgrade until 2001.



In the dock: P&O's 'Pride of Suffolk' loading at Felixstowe. Under the new safety regulations, all ro-ro ferries must be modified by spring 1998

Photograph: Brian Hems

Other ships set to be overhauled in the autumn include Sea France's *Matisse* and P&O's *Pride of Hampshire*. Next year would see some newer ships - like P&O's *Pride of Suffolk* upgraded.

A spokesman for P&O Eu-

ropean Ferries said: "We will do whatever is necessary to comply with the new regulations."

Passenger groups said more could be done sooner. The Consumers' Association called for the Government to speed up

the new regulations so all ships are modified by spring 1998.

The CA added that industry standards require a typical cross-Channel ferry to be evacuated within 30 minutes. Yet it took 65 minutes for 842 volun-

teers to be evacuated in a government test in Dover.

The Herald Families Association, which campaigned to raise safety standards, is disbanding in the light of the new regulations. "Time does not

Conservationists to challenge £17m Cairngorms railway plan

Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

Scottish Natural Heritage, the Government's nature adviser, was riding out a storm of protest yesterday after withdrawing its objection to a funicular railway up Cairn Gorm. The fate of the £17m project could now depend

on Brussels and the National Lottery.

Conservationists are preparing a challenge through Europe and the courts in order to safeguard the sub-arctic mountain environment, home to rare birds such as the dotterel and snow bunting.

"SNH has failed monume-

tally in its duty to protect the Scottish countryside," said Bill Wright, of the Cairngorms Campaign which may seek judicial review of the quango's behaviour over the railway.

Not surprisingly, the Chairlift Company was delighted with the decision, describing it as "an important milestone" in

the redevelopment of the Aviemore ski area. Hamish Swan, the company's chairman, said it was "a breakthrough for Highland tourism and the local community". An extra 50 jobs have been predicted.

The way is now clear for a formal agreement between SNH, the company, Highland and Is-

lands Enterprise, which owns the land, and Highland Council setting legal safeguards for nature protection. Once that is signed, the Chairlift Company will set about raising the capital.

The 2km railway would run on 93 concrete pillars from the mountainside car park almost

to the summit of Cairn Gorm.

at 1,245 metres one of Britain's highest mountains. It would replace antiquated chairlifts used by skiers and also provide a summer service to a summit visitor centre.

This bizarre arrangement

was being trumpeted by SNH as likely to lead to less visitor pressure than the current "unmanaged chairlift access".



This is how - in just three months - you could be speaking the new language of your choice confidently without really noticing that you've learnt it ...

Over 6 million people have used and are still using the most effective method ever to speak one or more foreign languages. Why is it so effective? Because to learn a new language, you've got two options: either you study grammar, vocabulary and phonetics for months and months or you go back to the way you learnt as a child.

You probably can't remember at that time you first reproduced sounds, then words and then entire phrases without really understanding anything. Very quickly you were able to speak, understand and make yourself understood. This is the best way to learn any language. And it's exactly on this principle that the Lingraphone method is based.

Why only 3 months?

A child learns to speak almost 'by chance'. He imitates his parents without knowing why. For you, it's different. You're motivated. You either need or want to speak a new language. That's why 3 months (as little as half an hour a day) is enough time for you to be able to express yourself easily in any new language.

Why such quick progress? It's thanks to the repetition of the expressions that the vocabulary and pronunciation become firmly imprinted on your mind without you ever having to call on your "conscious" memory.

When you need your new language, the sentences will automatically come to you just how they do now in your native language.

An easy and natural way to learn

The Lingraphone cassettes are prepared by experts in language and linguistics. They are based on the unique 3-stage technique which

enables you to learn your new language in 3 months. These are the 3 stages:

◆ You listen

First, you get your ear attuned to the sounds of your new language. You listen, but without trying to understand what you are hearing. By the simple act of listening you will quickly assimilate the sounds, tones and inflections of the language.

◆ You understand

This will prepare you for conversation. You repeat sounds, then words, then phrases, then complete expressions. After you have spoken, the narrator repeats the correct answer, so that you can check your progress before going on to the next phrase.

◆ You speak

The most amazing thing about the Lingraphone method is that you will begin speaking and thinking in your new language right from the first cassette.

At first you'll be lacking some vocabulary. But this will increase very quickly thanks to the scientific structure of the Lingraphone course. Your sentences will become longer and more complete. In 3 months, you'll see the result: you could be speaking the new language of your choice confidently without noticing that you've learnt it.

How to try a Lingraphone course free

Lingraphone has prepared a demonstration cassette for you. You'll be able to see for yourself that it's possible to master a new language today. You can obtain one of these cassettes completely free and without obligation. Simply complete the coupon below and send it today, or easier still, call our Advice Line free for further information.

Phone us now for more information free on 0800 282 417 24 hour personal service.

Free Lingraphone demonstration cassettes and information pack - no obligation. Send to Lingraphone Prospect, London W1E 6AJ. No stamp is needed.

If you'd like to see how a Lingraphone course can enable me to speak in 3 months, the new language of my choice, without noticing that I've learnt it. Send me a demonstration cassette completely free of charge and without any obligation.

Which language would you like to speak in 3 months?

French German Italian

Spanish - including videos

Afrikaans Hindi Portuguese

Arabic Icelandic Russian

Chinese Indonesian Serbo-Croat

Danish Irish Spanish/Am.

Dutch Japanese Swedish

English Korean Thai

Farsi Malay Welsh

Greek Norwegian American English

Hebrew Polish

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Visit the Lingraphone Language Centre, 124-126 Bromley Road, Knightsbridge, London SW3

Please tick here if you do not wish Lingraphone to make your details available to other companies who may wish to send you offers of goods or services. _____

“They saved me £10.20 a month on my home insurance.

And saved me phoning anyone else.”

MIDLAND direct

CALL FREE:
0800 277 377

Midland Bank

Member HSBC Group

Issued by Midland Bank plc. Calls may be monitored or recorded.

THE PENSIONS REVOLUTION

Lilley the radical guesses 40 years ahead

Nic Cicutti
Personal Finance Editor

The Government's proposals to privatise the basic state pension and scrap the earnings-related scheme, announced yesterday, is one of the most audacious plans for almost 20 years.

Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, described his plan as "enabling pensioners to share in future economic growth ... and ultimately, to relieve taxpayers of their biggest burden".

Mr Lilley's department claimed the Basic Pension Plus plans, which involve paying young people £9 per week towards a personal pension from the moment they start work, will eventually save up to £40bn from the public spending bill by 2040. Department of Social Security officials argued that the cost of paying the basic state pension, plus income support to those on the poverty line, costs about £42bn a year at present. This figure is rising fast as more people reach retirement age and then go on to live longer.

By implementing this scheme, the state pensions bill would be reduced to about £10bn in 40 years' time or so.

But Labour's pensions spokesman, John Denham, yesterday cast doubt on the Government's figures. He seized on DSS figures showing the cost of paying £9 weekly to young people's pensions would rise by £16bn each year, spiralling to £7bn a year in about 40 years time, to claim that existing taxpayers would be forced to foot the bill for this largesse.

Minister claims scheme will save taxpayers billions and help the old

The Government's proposals are the latest stage in a long-running retrenchment over state pensions. The retreat from a generously-funded state scheme, which began barely a year after the Tories took office in 1979, has continued unabated for more than 15 years. The most significant initial step taken by the Conservatives

is cheaper for the taxpayer to provide the same level of benefits to pensioners under the new system than through the existing one.

Mr Lilley argued yesterday that the rising costs of meeting the £9 weekly commitment to young people would be funded by a combination of two factors. The first is that, unlike now, payments into a personal pension will be taxed. Whereas at present, for every £100 of contributions the Revenue pays £24 for basic taxpayers (£40 for those on the marginal rate), this will not happen in future.

The Government claims that young people will benefit from not having their pension taxed when it is finally paid. However, most governments' tax promises have tended to be at variance with the facts just a year or two after being made, never mind 40 years' time.

Mr Lilley also hopes that very minor economic growth – ahead of existing targets – would meet the remaining cost. Again, this depends on whether such growth can be maintained for 40 years.

A DSS spokesman said last night: "The rising costs are nothing to be scared of. We have already shown that we are capable of cutting the cost of pension provision, by our previous reforms of Serps and by the equalisation of state pension ages at 65. Assuming normal economic growth, we can afford the changes."

On the cost front, there is the additional question of how much the new personal pensions will cost.

In 1980 involved raising the basic pension only in line with inflation and not earnings. Because pay generally rises faster than inflation, this meant the value of a basic state pension dropping from about 20 per cent of average earnings in 1979 to about 15 per cent today. This is predicted to fall to 10 per cent in 25 years' time.

The second step taken by the Government has involved the whittling away of Serps, the state-earnings-related system. When it was first introduced by Barbara Castle in 1978, at the end of the last Labour government, Serps was intended to add a further 25 per cent of average wages at retirement.

This too has been gradually stripped away, once again, by

Peter Tompkins, actuary at the accountancy firm Price Waterhouse, said someone on average earnings of £16,500 in 2010 could expect £3,500 a year in addition to their state pension if Serps were fully linked to earnings. By 2040 this will drop to £1,400.

Although initial reports focused on the Government's abolition of Serps and its replacement with a 5 per cent National Insurance rebate, once again payable into a personal pension, this has been virtually accomplished already.

About 15 million people are now opted out of Serps, with just 6 million, mostly lower-paid workers, still contributing to the scheme.

The real debate, such as there is one, is over whether it



Public savings Paying young people £9 per week towards a personal pension scheme will save up to £40bn by 2040

Labour splits over Serps scheme

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent



Harman: Serps should stay

There is disagreement in the Labour ranks over whether the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme should be scrapped or not. Party policy commits a Labour government to keeping the scheme, but the Labour chairman of the Social Security Select Committee, Frank Field, believes it should go.

Both sides in the argument agree that Serps has been run down over the years of Conservative government and that it no longer provides good value for money for most people. However, the party's social security spokeswoman, Harriet

pulsory personal-insurance schemes.

A Labour government would be committed to keeping the same basic pension structure as exists at present, but, like the Conservatives, it would encourage more people to take up private schemes to top up their basic state pension. The Liberal Democrats, meanwhile, believe that Serps could be phased out but only after other safeguards have been put in place.

However, there is acknowledgement among Labour politicians that private pensions do not provide adequate returns for all investors. They say that someone earning between £10,000 and £12,000 would lose

a quarter of their savings through administration charges. Complex rules which exacerbate this problem should be simplified, they suggest.

Labour has promised to work with pension providers and to use competition between them in order to provide better pensions and to ensure proper security. In addition, those on low earnings would be entitled to a basic state pension linked to inflation under a Labour government, as they have been under the Conservatives.

Labour believes that the Conservatives' "apocalyptic" warnings about the growing numbers of pensioners in this country are overstated. Al-

though there will be a sharp increase between 2030 and 2040, it says, the number of people retiring in the next 20 years will be lower than in the past 20.

Under a Labour government new types of pension schemes could be encouraged, including programmes run by groups of employers or by a number of firms in the same industry. There could also be local schemes, possibly promoted by chambers of commerce.

Personal pensions under Labour could be linked to the party's plan for individual savings accounts. Pension companies would be encouraged to offer savings and life assurance to their members at competitive rates.

Under the Basic Pension Plus programme, everyone would have to choose a personal pension plan from an approved company. They would then receive a National Insurance rebate of £9 per week, which would be paid into the fund in order to provide a basic state pension, regardless of how much they earned.

Then Serps could be phased out, with earnings-related state pensions transferred over time to the private sector. However, the basic state pension would remain in state bands.

The state could save £40bn per year by 2040 under the Conservatives' new pension scheme, according to Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security.

However, anyone over 20 today is unlikely to be affected by the new arrangements. Legislation would be passed towards the end of the next Parliament and phased in over the following 40 years.

Under the Basic Pension Plus programme, everyone would guarantee to top it up.

In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

The Government believes an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government

would guarantee to top it up.

In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

The Government believes an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government

would guarantee to top it up.

In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

The Government believes an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government

would guarantee to top it up.

In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

The Government believes an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government

would guarantee to top it up.

In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

The Government believes an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government

would guarantee to top it up.

In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

The Government believes an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government

would guarantee to top it up.

In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

The Government believes an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government

See our new higher rates below.

Nationwide challenged you to compare their savings rates with the top 30 banks and building societies. Why not with Direct Line?

	£1- £4,999	£5,000- £9,999	£10,000- £24,999	£25,000- £49,999	£50,000- £99,999	£100,000+
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.50%	5.00%	5.60%	5.75%	6.00%	6.10%
Nationwide Cash Builder Instant Access Account	3.00%†	3.30%	3.70%	4.10%	4.40%	4.40%

All rates are gross*. This rate is effective from £500. Nationwide rates correct at 4th March 1997 and Direct Line rates correct at 5th March 1997.

- Because they know our savings rates are high, and they've just gone up again, that's why.
- With Direct Line you also get instant access and high returns without locking your money away for up to 100 days.
- You can pool your savings with family or friends for even higher returns.
- The more savings you have the higher our rates get.
- So don't waste your time challenging Nationwide. Call Direct Line.

0181 667 1121

0161 833 1121

LONDON

MANCHESTER

0141 221 1121

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND51
http://www.directline.co.uk

Savings are provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SA, which is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £18,000 (or ECU 20,000 if greater). Further details of the Scheme are available on request. *The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payment of interest. For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.

FREE CALLS FOR LIFE

NEW VODAFONE TARIFF
INCLUDES 15 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH WORTH UP TO £72 PER YEAR INCLUDING PEAK CALLS

FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE AND IN-CAR ADAPTER WORTH £35 EACH

FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP FOR 1 YEAR WITH THE CELLOPHANE DIRECT ADVANTAGE CARD

FREE LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY

FREE 14-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

PRICE PLEDGE - WE'LL MATCH ANY RETAILER'S PRICE

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD 15 TARIFF
CONNECTION CHARGE £35.00
MONTHLY RENTAL £17.50

PEAK RATE CALLS 15p/min OFF PEAK CALLS 10p/min

40p/min 12p/min ONE SECOND BILLING

NEW GEM MODEL 5111

Up to 3.5 hrs talking
110 hrs standby

♦ SMS send and receive

♦ Weight 250g

Cellphones

THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING

QUOTE REF: 6340

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING 0800 000 888 WEEKDAYS 8AM TO 8PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM

PLUS FREE POST & PACKAGING AND FREE DELIVERY

OVER 1000 MODELS IN STOCK

WEBSITE: <http://www.cellphones.com>

TEL: 0121 454 0000 FAX: 0121 454 0001

E MAIL: info@cellphones.com

100% GUARANTEED

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEED

100% EXCHANGE GUARANTEED

100% REBATE GUARANTEED

100% DISCRETION GUARANTEED

100% EXCHANGE GUARANTEED

100% REBATE GUARANTEED

100% DISCRETION GUARANTEED

100% EXCHANGE GUARANTEED

100% REBATE GUARANTEED

100% DISCRETION GUARANTEED

THE PENSIONS REVOLUTION

PM challenged to live on pensioner's monthly income

Glenda Cooper

Elizabeth Raybone is disgusted with the Prime Minister. She wants to challenge John Major to "come and live with me for a month. Leave your money and come and live on my meagre pension and see how you manage. See how you'd cope."

Miss Raybone is 62, partially sighted and lives in a "two-up two-down" house in Gwent, South Wales. She receives income support and a disability allowance which comes to £78 a week. Everything has to be accounted for, but she says that her cat, Beauty, is her one luxury.

She budgets £29 for her heating, mortgage, electricity, telephone, bills, newspapers, television licence and insurance. The remaining £19 goes on food - mainly pulses and vegetables as they are cheap and filling. That way she can just about manage, if she spends time in the market shopping around for the best food bargains.

"I rarely eat meat - it is far too expensive. I might eat it once a fortnight, if I'm very lucky." But there are sometimes unforeseen problems which can

Keeping body and soul together is a daily struggle for Elizabeth Raybone

throw her budget out: "It's a question of trying to leave something for a month or two, hope that they don't push me and try to make it up by cutting down on food or heating."

"Heating you can save, by wrapping yourself up in a blanket on a chair or just going to bed of course."

But she is terrified of running into debt. "We sleep too many people fall into debt and they just can't get out. If I fell behind in my mortgage payments I could lose my house as easy as pie. For something like the heating, well they can't switch you off in the winter, but come 1 March and they'll do it. At the moment I desperately need new carpets and curtains - but it is not something I can afford."

Miss Raybone did not go out to work but spent most of her life caring for her parents: "It was very hard as practically all

my life they were seriously ill and there were no facilities for carers. There was nothing at all."

"We just weren't able to save. If you had saved all your life then maybe you would be able to cope, but with two seriously ill parents it just wasn't possible."

She feels that politicians have failed to realise what sort of life many old people lead and says that yesterday's announcements probably amounts to no more than "election promises".

"If they would just put up the pension £10 or £15 it would make a difference," she said.

"But when you're on £700 a week you don't know what it is like on £70. You're counting each penny - and if milk goes up a penny then you have to find that penny from somewhere else. They wouldn't be able to cope."



Photograph: Rob Stratton

Tight budget: Elizabeth Raybone from Gwent, South Wales, with her cat, Beauty, which she describes as her one luxury

Retiring type just manages to make ends meet

Glenda Cooper

At first Rachel Notley's late husband did not want her to go to work - "it just wasn't done then." Now she is grateful that she managed to persuade him to let her, for otherwise she does not know how she would survive on just a state pension.

Married in 1934, it was not until the 1960s that she went out to work for Age Concern after bringing up her children and caring for her in-laws.

She took out an occupational pension at the time because "it seemed like a sensible idea". Now she is supremely thankful she did.

Mrs Notley, 83, lives on £155 a week, compared with the normal state pension of £61.15. Her occupational pension gives her around £65 a week after tax; her state pension is £82, higher than normal because her husband worked until then aged 68, as she did; and she also gets a small amount from her savings bond and attendance allowance. She also has money in a building society and is in the process of purchasing the freehold on her flat.

Her outgoings include council tax of £41 a month, £8 a month for gas "although I try not to put it on so much", the electricity (£12) and her car (£20), which she needs to get around because of her disability following a hip operation. Her attendance allowance of £42 allows her to employ someone to come in and do things like the cleaning, which she cannot manage. "I realise that at

While a works pension makes Rachel Notley extremely thankful

though I have to make do, I am not as badly off as I could be. I can run a car although I have to give up other things and make sure I get my priorities right. But I cannot see how you could eat properly on a state pension," she said.

"I am so thankful. If I didn't have my own pension I would be on housing benefit and everything. I'm lucky as well because I have some small savings from when my husband died and I sold the house."

"You do have to think 'Gosh, that's a bit expensive,' if you're looking at a new pair of shoes. Even on my income, if you want something like a new winter coat, unless you go to Oxfam you can't buy a decent one for under £100. Sometimes I go shopping and I see people with stuff in their trolley, which comes to more than my weekly income."

She thinks politicians have not thought the pensions system through: "I can't see what the Government are going to do. There are a lot more older active people like me around now and I can't see how anybody reduces so just their pension. You couldn't really manage on £61 per week and I know people do but it is a pretty rotten life, particularly after paying into the system all your life."

Green Flag gives you motoring assistance from as little as 8p per day.¹

CHOOSE FROM 5 LEVELS OF COVERAGE	
Recovery only	£29.50
Roadside assistance	£38.00
Comprehensive	£69.00
Comprehensive Gold	£93.00
Total protection	£145.00

*Calls registered before 02/01/97 are subject to an additional fee of £15.00

Call free now on
0800 001 353

quoting ref A3110

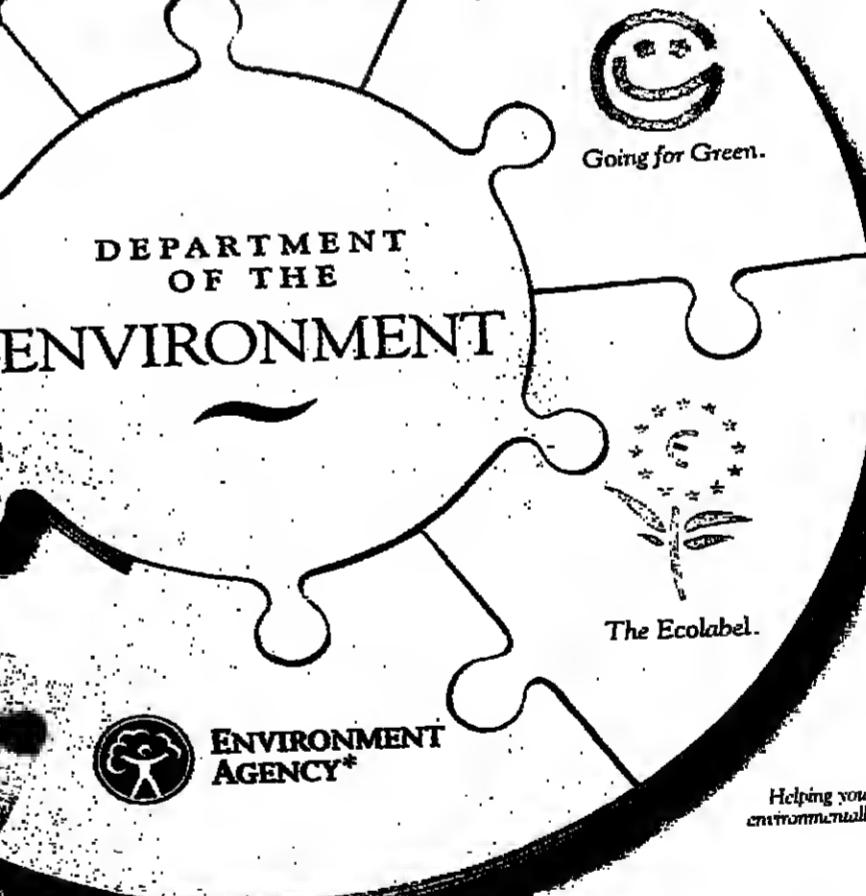
Green Flag
Motoring Assistance

We LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU

To help your environment, complete the picture.

Promoting, advising and helping you make the energy efficient choice.

Making a world of difference together.



Safeguarding and improving the environment.

*In Scotland - the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Sometimes it's a puzzle to know what you can do to help your environment and to improve the quality of life for you and your family.

Fortunately you're not alone. Help and advice is at hand.

There are many simple steps you can take which will make a difference to your surroundings. They could also save you money.

To find out more, call 0345 86 86 86 or cut out the coupon.

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____ Please tick if you would like to receive further information in _____

Send to: Helping Your Environment, PO Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9ZZ.

Helping your environment

international

Protesters fear Berisha's army is out for blood

Emma Daly

A major security operation, including soldiers equipped with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, was under way throughout southern Albania yesterday, but armed civilians appeared to come out ahead in early fighting.

Protesters in the southern port of Saranda fired assault rifles and a commando tank at jets flying overhead.

Journalists in Saranda saw Chinese-made MiG-15 warplanes drop a bomb next to two houses in the village of Devnya, near Saranda, and saw smoke from two more bombs. About 400 families, most belonging to Albania's ethnic Greek minority, live in the town. It was not clear if anyone was hurt.

The Defence Ministry denied there had been any order to fire against civilians. But on Tuesday the crew of an Albanian military jet who landed in Italy seeking political asylum said they had been given orders to bomb civilian targets near the southern town of Gjirokastra, 123 miles south of Tirana.

About 400 hooded and armed protesters are guarding the entrance to the port of

Saranda, which is under the control of the insurgents. They have set up road blocks on the main road into the city. Trucks and cars were seen carrying weapons and explosives into the town, most of it looted from army warehouses in the region.

In the town of Shkodra, four

gunmen are in position on rooftops in the town, they said. The defenders of Vlora are believed to be well organised and have shored up positions outside the town.

Many Albanians fear that President Sali Berisha will aim at a bloody victory rather than political compromise in Vlora and Saranda. But Western diplomats say the army is poorly equipped and cannot be relied on to enforce the President's will.

Among the soldiers are many conscripts who invested their meagre wages in the pyramid schemes whose collapse sparked the unrest in January.

The police are another matter. Most come from the north, home of Mr Berisha, and are loyal to him. The regular police have been put under command of the Shik, the secret police.

Its members are much in evidence around Tirana in buildings frequented by opposition

men who reported injured in a battle with army troops. The fight apparently broke out when four truckloads of troops opened fire on a roadblock.

Vlora, the centre of anti-government protests, has yet to come under attack according to residents contacted by telephone. They said most civilians were staying indoors fearful of the military holding the main road north and of the armed locals leading the protest.

Men were reportedly injured in a battle with army troops. The fight apparently broke out when four truckloads of troops opened fire on a roadblock.

The capital is quiet. However, the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curfew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who know they are seen as enemies by the government.

The capital is quiet. However,

Swiss to give £3bn to victims of Nazis

Louise Jury

Switzerland crumbled under the weight of international pressure yesterday and announced plans to endow a £3bn foundation for victims of Nazi genocide.

In a move which stunned and delighted critics, President Arnold Koller said the country should set up the fund "to do some good to those who endured unspeakable sufferings 50 years ago". Only two months ago, the then Swiss president, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, condemned Jewish lobbying as "blackmail" and said claims for a compensation fund would be an "admission of guilt".

Mr Koller admitted that the Swiss government initially underestimated the criticism and had failed to address it with "sufficient sensitivity".

Now, the new fund, to be established by next year to mark the 150th anniversary of the modern Swiss constitution, will supplement a humanitarian fund already endowed with £43m by leading Swiss banks.

The Swiss National Bank said gold would be sold over 10

years to fund the scheme, while avoiding hitting the world gold market. The gold price nevertheless dropped about 34

(£250) an ounce to \$354 (£222).

Switzerland has been under growing pressure since newly released documents indicated it had not always helped Nazi victims and their families trace money placed in Switzerland before the Second World War.

It also faced criticism for using its neutrality in the conflict to deal tons of Nazi gold.

Mr Koller admitted that the

Swiss government initially underestimating the criticism and had failed to address it with "sufficient sensitivity".

Now, the new fund, to be es-

tablished by next year to mark

the 150th anniversary of the

modern Swiss constitution, will

supplement a humanita-

narian fund already endowed

with £43m by leading Swiss

banks.

The Swiss National Bank

said gold would be sold over

10 years to fund the scheme,

while avoiding hitting the

world gold market. The gold

price nevertheless dropped

about 34

(£250) an ounce to \$354 (£222).

Switzerland has been under

growing pressure since newly

released documents indicated

it had not always helped Nazi

victims and their families trace

money placed in Switzerland

before the Second World War.

It also faced criticism for using

its neutrality in the conflict to

deal tons of Nazi gold.

Mr Koller admitted that the

Swiss government initially

underestimating the criticism

and had failed to address it with

"sufficient sensitivity".

Now, the new fund, to be es-

tablished by next year to mark

the 150th anniversary of the

modern Swiss constitution, will

supplement a humanita-

narian fund already endowed

with £43m by leading Swiss

banks.

The Swiss National Bank

said gold would be sold over

10 years to fund the scheme,

while avoiding hitting the

world gold market. The gold

price nevertheless dropped

about 34

(£250) an ounce to \$354 (£222).

Switzerland has been under

growing pressure since newly

released documents indicated

it had not always helped Nazi

victims and their families trace

money placed in Switzerland

before the Second World War.

It also faced criticism for using

its neutrality in the conflict to

deal tons of Nazi gold.

Mr Koller admitted that the

Swiss government initially

underestimating the criticism

and had failed to address it with

"sufficient sensitivity".

Now, the new fund, to be es-

tablished by next year to mark

the 150th anniversary of the

modern Swiss constitution, will

supplement a humanita-

narian fund already endowed

with £43m by leading Swiss

banks.

The Swiss National Bank

said gold would be sold over

10 years to fund the scheme,

while avoiding hitting the

world gold market. The gold

price nevertheless dropped

about 34

(£250) an ounce to \$354 (£222).

Switzerland has been under

growing pressure since newly

released documents indicated

it had not always helped Nazi

victims and their families trace

money placed in Switzerland

before the Second World War.

It also faced criticism for using

its neutrality in the conflict to

deal tons of Nazi gold.

Mr Koller admitted that the

Swiss government initially

underestimating the criticism

and had failed to address it with

"sufficient sensitivity".



Koller: Stunned the critics

Switzerland should do some good for those who endured unspeakable sufferings 50 years ago

But with threats that Swiss businesses would be boycotted unless the question of "lost" Jewish bank accounts and war-time gold dealing was addressed, politicians and diplomats have been forced to meet the growing crisis head-on.

President Koller told a special session of parliament that the government intended to use a new, more realistic valuation of Swiss gold holdings as the basis for the fund.

With sound investment, the Swiss Foundation for Solidarity could enjoy an income of up to several hundred million pounds a year.

The fund would "reinforce Switzerland's humanitarian tradition and prove our gratitude for having been spared during two world wars," he said.

It would help not only Holocaust survivors but "victims of poverty and catastrophes, of genocide and other severe breaches of human rights."

Leading article, page 15



Last stand: Police firing water cannons at thousands of protesters in Dannenberg to clear a road for the shipment of nuclear-waste containers

Photograph: Reuter

Nuclear protesters bow to the inevitable

Imre Karacs
Gorleben

Four youths dangling from trees held up 30,000 German troops and police in Robocop body armour for several hours yesterday, before ultimately succumbing. The Battle of Gorleben ended in triumph for the state when six lorries towing the 100-tonne nuclear containers reached the security of the medium term waste disposal site yesterday afternoon.

It was a Pyrrhic victory, in which 150 demonstrators were injured, the region's famed heath was enveloped in the acrid fume of burning tyres, and the authorities bickered about who should pick up the 100-tonne mark bill. The government of Lower Saxony hinted this might have been the last trip to its cursed nuclear cemetery.

The operation began at 5am sharp. At Dannenberg station, where the containers had been loaded on to reinforced trailers, the water cannons

opened fire, dousing some 4,000 demonstrators sitting on the road. Then armoured bulldozers charged into the crowd. Five policemen were injured in the ensuing scuffles.

The demonstrators retreated. It was still early morning, and the road to Gorleben seemed to be wide open. But protesters were about to fight back.

In the dead of night, the two oak trees at the entrance of the road had been turned into a victory arch, linked by a huge banner and a web of mount-

aineering ropes. Along them four environmentalists were sliding to and fro, clutching the ropes with one hand and their mobile phones with the other.

That was at 9am, but the troops had come prepared for any confrontation. They had APCs, water cannons, a fleet of helicopters. What they lacked was a long ladder.

Reinforcements were sent for. Eight helicopter gun ships flew past in formation, crack troops marched below, followed by military hardware.

When that did not work, the state called in its nuclear weapon. The first of the deadly trucks pulled up. Five policemen climbed on top of the huge casket, one grabbing the lowest tree dweller by her feet. The others severed her support with long wire cutters. And so they were plucked out one by one.

By 3pm the convoy was behind the electric fences of Gorleben, where the caskets will be buried in a disused salt mine. What happens then to the radioactive end-product, nobody knows.

Turks try to sweet talk EU

Christopher de Bellaigue
Ankara

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Foreign Minister, will answer critics of Turkey's application to join the EU when she hosts a meeting for European diplomats today. She is to address ambassadors from the EU's 15 member-states to try to nudge Turkey into the running for enlargement of the union.

Her sermon, delivered in re-

assuring European terms, will need to be even more palatable than the marinated *shish*. Earlier this week Ms Ciller and other Turkish Euromaniacs were reminded of obstacles on its path to membership when figures from Europe's Christian Democrat parties, meeting in Brussels, appeared to dismiss the possibility of Turkey joining the list of other nations with which the EU is to begin entry negotiations. In the words of

Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister: "It [the meeting] was unanimous against Turkish membership."

Ms Ciller must also divert her guests from speculation that Turkey may soon embrace a different and now devalued European tradition: a military coup.

On Friday Turkey's generals slapped down attempts by Necmettin Erbakan, the Prime Minister, to make Turkey more like the Middle East. The Army staged its most dramatic intervention for 14 years and demanded a return to the secular order institutionalised by Turkey's founding father, Ataturk.

The generals affirmed their adherence to the ideal of European integration, but may have over-estimated Europe's susceptibility to claims that the military are the guardians of Turkish democracy. While Europeans feel broad sympathy for

Turkey's desire to remain secular, the Army's more draconian demands – for example, the enforcement of a ban on Islamic style beards and clothing – are considered redundant by another, less libertarian Europe. In the name of integration, say some, the military has confirmed Turkey's unsuitability for membership of the club.

Turkey may have been guilty of other misjudgements. When Ms Ciller, as Prime Minister, sweet-talked the European parliament into ratifying a customs union accord with Turkey, she promised to improve Turkey's human-rights record but failed to deliver. Violations, especially in connection with the war against Kurdish separatists, upset parliamentarians so much that they blocked money which the EU had promised Turkey.

The Turks regard this as hubris. In 1989, when its application for European Com-

munity membership was deferred, Turkey's unsuitability was explained in largely economic terms: its human-rights record was affirmed little prominence. Now, while Turkey has the highest growth rate of any OECD country, attention has switched. The Turks think they know why: Europe, they claim, overlooked human-rights abuses as long as Turkey provided security on Europe's eastern border. Now, as former Warsaw Pact nations prepare to leapfrog into the EU, offending Turkey appears less perilous.

The main obstacle to Turkey's European aspirations is relations with Greece, which is blocking EU funds promised to help Turkey accustomise to the customs union. The Greeks want assurances that Cyprus will enter the EU – on their terms. In response, the Turks, who disagree, have threatened to derail plans for Nato expansion.

Koreans meet in peace

US and North and South Korean officials began talks that mediators hope will lead to peace on the peninsula. Delegations gathered in a New York hotel for a "joint briefing" by the US and South Korea on proposals for talks aimed at formally ending the Korean War. It is the first time since 1972 that North and South Koreans have sat in the same room to talk peace.

AP - New York

Santer neutral in Renault row

Renault did not follow the spirit of EU laws in moving to close a car plant in Belgium. Jacques Santer, European Commission president, said. But the Commission was not saying specifically whether it believed Renault had broken EU laws relating to how management consulted with workers in the event of a closure.

Reuters - Brussels

Yeltsin faces his health critics

President Boris Yeltsin today faces a test of his ability to soldier on when he delivers his state-of-the-nation address. In the most important milestone in his second term and will be a measure of his health after his bypass operation and pneumonia.

Who's harnessing the
world's most advanced
scientific
thinking
to develop
new
medicines
for the 21st century?

medicines

NOVARTIS

The world's leading Life Sciences company.
Formed by the merger of Ciba and Sandoz.



obituaries / gazette

Jarmil Burghauser

The name of Jarmil Burghauser is well known internationally, since he is Dvorak's "Kochel".

For many years now the confusion in the opus numbering of Dvorak's music, caused by mis-allocation on the part of the composer's German publisher Fritz Simrock, has been corrected by the use of "B" numbers, as is done through the "K" numbers in the case of Mozart. It was in 1960 that Burghauser's *Antonín Dvořák: thematisch katalog, bibliographie, prelud, zivot* ("Antonín Dvořák: thematic catalogue, bibliography, survey of life and work") was published in Prague and immediately placed alongside those of Schmieder for Bach, Hoboken for Haydn, Kochel for Mozart and Kinsky for Beethoven as the definitive work of reference. As if such a monumental undertaking was not enough, Burghauser's life was lived to the full in many fields of activity, not all of them musical.

Born Jarmil Molýk in Písek in south Bohemia, in 1921, he was taught music from the age of six and had embarked upon his first compositions by the age of 12. Formal study in composition came in 1933, when he became a private pupil first of Jaroslav Krížek and then of Otakar Jeřemic from 1937 until 1941. He entered the Prague Conservatoire in 1941, where his musical training included conducting under Metod Doležil and Pavel Dedeček. On graduation three years later he was admitted for a further two years to the advanced conducting course of the great Václav Talich.

His early works had already begun to receive performances and the *Adagio* and *Furiante* from his Symphony No 3 in G minor were broadcast by Czech Radio in 1936 when he was still 15 years old. By 1942 concerts of his works were given in Prague, first under the auspices of the organisation Přítomnost ("The Present"), with which he remained associated throughout his life. More significant recognition came in 1946 when the Prague Symphony Orchestra under Václav Smetacek performed his cantata *Utrpení v zkřivení* ("Suffering and Resurrection") based on texts from the Kralice Bible.

Burghauser also showed an early interest in musical history and research, entering Charles University to study musicology, under Josef Hrutt, and psychology. The completion of his studies coincided with the advent of Communist control in Czechoslovakia in 1948. As one who refused to embrace the new political regime, openly remaining true also to his Christian beliefs, he was denied graduation. Indeed, like many Czechs, he received his doctoral degree only in 1991, after the fall of the totalitarian regime.

From 1946 to 1950, he held the post of Chorus Master of the opera, at the National Theatre in Prague, where he worked alongside many of the great figures in Czech music, including Talich. It was in 1950 that his change of name to Burghauser, the maiden name of his mother, a distinguished painter divorced from his father, was officially sanctioned by the authorities. In the same year his second opera, *Lakomek* ("The Miser"), based on Moléne's *Le Miser*, was produced in Liberec.

Although Burghauser also taught at the Prague Academy of Musical Arts from 1946 to 1949 and served as the programme planner for the cham-

ber opera in the mid-1940s, from 1953 he devoted himself in music exclusively to composition and musicology. He was employed for a time by the Czech State Film Studios and he became a member of the editorial boards of the Dvorak, Fibich and Janacek complete editions, positions that he held until the end of his life.

His work for the Dvorak Edition is another of his monuments. He was appointed to that board before the death of his father-in-law, Otakar Sourek, Dvorak's first biographer, in 1956. The first volumes appeared in 1955 and the work remains in progress. In more recent times his work on the Janacek Edition has come in for criticism, particularly in his attempt to "simplify" some of Janacek's notation. In 1964 he was appointed Director of the music drama section of the Union of Composers, in that period of easing of political oppression that led to the Dubcek era and subsequently the tragic events of 1968.

Like many of his fellow artists, Burghauser became a victim of the post-1968 backlash: the unique recordings of many of his works in the archives of Czech Radio were pseudonymically destroyed. His name was removed from the published list of the editorial board of the Dvorak Edition, although he continued to work as a member. He was prevented from travelling and was able to continue composing only by using the pseudonym Michal Hajku until the political situation began to ease.

Under this name his *Rozmberská Štěva* appeared in 1972 and his *Guitar Concerto* in 1978. It was typical of him that, where Dvorak and musical matters were concerned, he was prepared to take on his political masters. To the end he campaigned for the erection of a statue to Dvorak, where, amazingly, none yet exists.

His own music was first steeped in the legacy of his beloved Dvorak, as can be heard in his ballet music for *Horažďová a čert* ("Johnny and the Devil", 1954). However, the influence of both Novák and Martinu can be discerned in other of his works from the 1950s, with neoclassicism and the music of Prokofiev also finding sympathy.

In 1957 came perhaps his most successful score, another three-act ballet, *Sluha dvou panů* ("Servant of Two Masters"), based on Goldoni and first staged at the National Theatre the following year.

As with most Czech composers, his native folk music found a place in his output, no better than in the *Five Czech Dances* for novel of 1940, later arranged for wind quintet in 1955. Film and incidental music also featured significantly in his large output.

In the 1960s Burghauser's style in composition changed to embrace his own use of serial techniques, to which he gave the name "harmonic serialism". Works of this time include *Sedm reliéfů* ("Seven Reliefs", 1962) and *Cesty* ("The Ways", 1964), for strings, percussion, harp, guitar and cimbalom. He wrote about this method in *Cesty novy hudební* ("Ways of New Music", 1964). His largest work using this technique came in 1963-64 with his opera *Mosť* ("The Bridge"), staged in 1967.

In 1973 he revised his *Symphony No 1* in G from 1933 and went on to write a number of chamber works during that and the next decade, as well as the

following year.

Graham McIlveen-Mason

Jarmil Molýk (Jarmil Burghauser), composer and musicologist; born Písek 23 October 1921; married Vlasta Sourekova (marriage dissolved); died Prague 19 February 1997.

Deaths

DEAKIN: John, formerly Secretary of the Cweddish Laboratory, died suddenly on Sunday 23 February 1997 in Madeira. Funeral service at Churchill Cemetery, London NW1, on Monday 3 March at 2.30pm. Please send any donations to the National Kidney Research Fund or the British Heart Foundation, c/o Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge CB4 3EJ.

FOX: On 3 March 1997, procedurally, Margaret Alexander, 141, died, aged 88, widow of Thomas Fox, most loved and loving mother of Tom (deceased), Christopher, Clemency and Lynette, grandmother and great-grandmother of many. Buried 11 March, London Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord."

MINCHIN: On 28 February 1997 at Hanl Lodge, Hailsham, East Sussex, Evelyn Mary, aged 91 years, widow of Harry Minchin. A truly wonderful lady who also put the interest of her family first. Please send any donations to the Cancer Fund, Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6LA.

ZEFF: On 25 February 1997 at home in Lewes, Richard (Zeff), aged 56.

Royal Engagements

The Queen visits King's High School, London NW1. Prince Edward, Trustee, Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Ambassador, attended a reception at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, West Virginia. Nariman, the Balinese and West Palm Beach, Florida. The Princess Royal, President, Raring the Deaf Association, attends a Conference Meeting at Saddler's Hall, London EC2, and attends the Institute of Petroleum's Annual Dinner at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel. The Duchess of Gloucester

attends a concert in aid of St Christopher's Fellowship Hospital Trustee, Appeal at St James' Church, London W1. The Duchess of Kent, Patron, attends her birthday, followed by dinner, at Downing College, Cambridge.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards Parade; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Anniversaries

Births: Michelangelo (Michelagnolo Buonarroti), painter, sculptor and poet, 1475; William Cyriac de Bergamo, general and playwright, 1619; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, 1806; Frank Howard (Frank Alexander), comedian, 1922; Dennis Francis Beaumont, playwright, 1916.

significant *Symphonic Fantasy: Vzemě české* ("In the Czech Country"), 1982).

However, more and more of his time became taken up with musicalological work and writing. Of more than a dozen books, after his "Thematic Catalogue", perhaps the most significant are *Ceníci a hrá partitura* ("Reading and Playing Scores", 1960), written with Petr Eben and Leoš Janáček, and *Edicni zasady a smernice* ("Editorial Principles and Directions", 1979), with Milan Solc. In 1991 he was a leading figure at the conference to mark the 150th anniversary of Dvorak's birth, held in New Orleans, Saarbrücken and Prague, as well as at the Royal Musical Association Annual Conference in London. In 1993 he led the Czech delegation at the centenary celebrations of Dvorak's visit to Spillville in Iowa. To mark his 75th birthday, Supraphon issued a special CD of his works in October 1996.

Jarmil Burghauser was a member of a remarkable group of senior Czech composers, the Fondečníci, which meets every Monday in Prague. Like many of his fellow artists, Burghauser became a victim of the post-1968 backlash: the unique recordings of many of his works in the archives of Czech Radio were pseudonymically destroyed. His name was removed from the published list of the editorial board of the Dvorak Edition, although he continued to work as a member. He was prevented from travelling and was able to continue composing only by using the pseudonym Michal Hajku until the political situation began to ease.

Under this name his *Rozmberská Štěva* appeared in 1972 and his *Guitar Concerto* in 1978. It was typical of him that, where Dvorak and musical matters were concerned, he was prepared to take on his political masters. To the end he campaigned for the erection of a statue to Dvorak, where, amazingly, none yet exists.

His own music was first steeped in the legacy of his beloved Dvorak, as can be heard in his ballet music for *Horažďová a čert* ("Johnny and the Devil", 1954). However, the influence of both Novák and Martinu can be discerned in other of his works from the 1950s, with neoclassicism and the music of Prokofiev also finding sympathy.

In 1957 came perhaps his most successful score, another three-act ballet, *Sluha dvou panů* ("Servant of Two Masters"), based on Goldoni and first staged at the National Theatre the following year.

As with most Czech composers, his native folk music found a place in his output, no better than in the *Five Czech Dances* for novel of 1940, later arranged for wind quintet in 1955. Film and incidental music also featured significantly in his large output.

In the 1960s Burghauser's style in composition changed to embrace his own use of serial techniques, to which he gave the name "harmonic serialism". Works of this time include *Sedm reliéfů* ("Seven Reliefs", 1962) and *Cesty* ("The Ways", 1964), for strings, percussion, harp, guitar and cimbalom. He wrote about this method in *Cesty novy hudební* ("Ways of New Music", 1964). His largest work using this technique came in 1963-64 with his opera *Mosť* ("The Bridge"), staged in 1967.

In 1973 he revised his *Symphony No 1* in G from 1933 and went on to write a number of chamber works during that and the next decade, as well as the

following year.

Graham McIlveen-Mason

Jarmil Molýk (Jarmil Burghauser), composer and musicologist; born Písek 23 October 1921; married Vlasta Sourekova (marriage dissolved); died Prague 19 February 1997.

Deaths

DEAKIN: John, formerly Secretary of the Cweddish Laboratory, died suddenly on Sunday 23 February 1997 in Madeira. Funeral service at Churchill Cemetery, London NW1, on Monday 3 March at 2.30pm. Please send any donations to the National Kidney Research Fund or the British Heart Foundation, c/o Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge CB4 3EJ.

FOX: On 25 February 1997 at home in Lewes, Richard (Zeff), aged 56.

Royal Engagements

The Queen visits King's High School, London NW1. Prince Edward, Trustee, Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Ambassador, attended a reception at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, West Virginia. Nariman, the Balinese and West Palm Beach, Florida. The Princess Royal, President, Raring the Deaf Association, attends a Conference Meeting at Saddler's Hall, London EC2, and attends the Institute of Petroleum's Annual Dinner at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel. The Duchess of Gloucester

attends a concert in aid of St Christopher's Fellowship Hospital Trustee, Appeal at St James' Church, London W1. The Duchess of Kent, Patron, attends her birthday, followed by dinner, at Downing College, Cambridge.

Birthdays

Dr Midge Adam, astrocytoma, 85; Miss Jean Bob, actress, 61; Brigadier Michael Calvert, former SAS commander, 94; Mr William Davis, editor and publisher of *High Life*, 64; Miss Kiki Dee, rock singer, 50; Mr Donald Dixon MP, 68; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 86; Mr David Gilmore, rock guitarist, 53; Mr Richard Giordano, chairman, British Gas, 63; Sir Alastair Grant, chairman, Safeway, 60; Professor David Hendry, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, 53; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 74; Linda Lovelace, actress, 50; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 67; Sir Hal Miller, former MP, 68; Mr Malcolm Moss, MP, 54; Mr John Nokes, actor, 60; Mr Trevor Peacock, television presenter, 63; Mr Richard Powell, world famous speed record holder, 51; Mr Peter Rockwell, cricketer, 41; Sir Ian Duncan Scott, former Ambassador, 88; The Right Reverend David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 68; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, operatic soprano, 55; Miss Valerie Polakova Tereshkova, cosmonaut, 60; Dr David Waller, chairman, J. Winter & Sons, 66; Miss Mary Wilson, singer, 53; Mrs Ann Winterford MP, 50; Sir Oliver Wright, former Ambassador to Washington, 76.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Clare Font-Wilk, "Donatello and the early 15th century", 2.30pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Margaret Binns, "Dr Richard Meade (1673-1754): physician to royalty, art collector and connoisseur", 1.10pm.

London School of Economics: Professor Francis Howard (Francis Alexander Howard), comedian, 1922; Professor Francis Beaumont, playwright, 1616.

Deaths

Dr Midge Adam, astrocytoma, 85; Miss Jean Bob, actress, 61; Brigadier Michael Calvert, former SAS commander, 94; Mr William Davis, editor and publisher of *High Life*, 64; Miss Kiki Dee, rock singer, 50; Mr Donald Dixon MP, 68; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 86; Mr David Gilmore, rock guitarist, 53; Mr Richard Giordano, chairman, British Gas, 63; Sir Alastair Grant, chairman, Safeway, 60; Professor David Hendry, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, 53; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 74; Linda Lovelace, actress, 50; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 67; Sir Hal Miller, former MP, 68; Mr Malcolm Moss, MP, 54; Mr John Nokes, actor, 60; Mr Trevor Peacock, television presenter, 63; Mr Richard Powell, world famous speed record holder, 51; Mr Peter Rockwell, cricketer, 41; Sir Ian Duncan Scott, former Ambassador, 88; The Right Reverend David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 68; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, operatic soprano, 55; Miss Valerie Polakova Tereshkova, cosmonaut, 60; Dr David Waller, chairman, J. Winter & Sons, 66; Miss Mary Wilson, singer, 53; Mrs Ann Winterford MP, 50; Sir Oliver Wright, former Ambassador to Washington, 76.

Anniversaries

Births: Michelangelo (Michelagnolo Buonarroti), painter, sculptor and poet, 1475; William Cyriac de Bergamo, general and playwright, 1619; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, 1806; Frank Howard (Frank Alexander), comedian, 1922; Dennis Francis Beaumont, playwright, 1616.

Deaths

Dr Midge Adam, astrocytoma, 85; Miss Jean Bob, actress, 61; Brigadier Michael Calvert, former SAS commander, 94; Mr William Davis, editor and publisher of *High Life*, 64; Miss Kiki Dee, rock singer, 50; Mr Donald Dixon MP, 68; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 86; Mr David Gilmore, rock guitarist, 53; Mr Richard Giordano, chairman, British Gas, 63; Sir Alastair Grant, chairman, Safeway, 60; Professor David Hendry, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, 53; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 74; Linda Lovelace, actress, 50; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 67; Sir Hal Miller, former MP, 68; Mr Malcolm Moss, MP, 54; Mr John Nokes, actor, 60; Mr Trevor Peacock, television presenter, 63; Mr Richard Powell, world famous speed record holder, 51; Mr Peter Rockwell, cricketer, 41; Sir Ian Duncan Scott, former Ambassador, 88; The Right Reverend David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 68; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, operatic soprano, 55; Miss Valerie Polakova Tereshkova, cosmonaut, 60; Dr David Waller, chairman, J. Winter & Sons, 66; Miss Mary Wilson, singer, 53; Mrs Ann Winterford MP, 50; Sir Oliver Wright, former Ambassador to Washington, 76.

Anniversaries

Births: Michelangelo (Michelagnolo Buonarroti), painter, sculptor and poet, 1475; William Cyriac de Bergamo, general and playwright, 1619; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, 1806; Frank Howard (Frank Alexander), comedian, 1922; Dennis Francis Beaumont, playwright, 1616.



A general Machiavelli: Chelmer, left, with Margaret Shepherd and Lord Poole after visiting Harold Macmillan in hospital, October 1963

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Lord Chelmer

Eric Chelmer was both an effective fund-raiser for the Conservative Party, as its Joint Treasurer from 1965 to 1977, and a formidable politician who never sought electoral office.

In 1973 he was lunching with the late George Hutchinson – one of the most astute commentators on Conservative politics at the time, and a

At last, the nation is offered a great promise

When in a season of political discord two parties come together in open agreement, it does not guarantee that they will talk sense, but it is a good omen. When they field, in Robert MacLennan and Robin Cook, two sensible and decent men, optimism grows. And the joint Labour and Liberal Democrat proposals for constitutional betterment did not disappoint.

A special merit was their modesty, and the fact that they still depend – in the case of plans for devolution and proportional representation – on popular approval through referenda. At last, it seems, the movement is under way to reform a constitution hardly less Venetian than when Tory Disraeli coined that phrase – disparagingly – a century and a half ago. We now have a prospect that within four or five years, perhaps even at the election after next, voters will see a fairer representation of their choices than first-past-the-post offers. To many that reform would be the most far-reaching the next government could effect.

The report of the Lib-Lab consultative committee is far from perfect. It has several sore thumbs. One is reform of the Lords. The document fudges what it is that a second chamber is intended to do. How far should an upper chamber explicitly be given a role of blocking, checking and where necessary kicking-for-touch? Only when we know what an upper house is for can we assess proposals for its composition – not that there

are any in the Lib-Lab report. The hereditary peers disappear (except for those favoured few who are to be reincarnated as life peers) but how, and on what grounds, will they be replaced?

Perhaps there is method in ignoring the detail of Lords reform. This document embodies a huge commitment of Parliamentary time and political energy. A strong sense of priority among these reforms is vital, and not only to get them through the House of Commons. Any new government, whatever the size of its majority, has only a limited amount of political credit, which should be spent first on the big-picture changes. Giving the British people the option of radically changing the voting system must, in terms of its impact on our politics, be at or near the top of that list. There will never be final pre-referendum agreement on a single method of voting; the Reform Commission will have to struggle with details of Irish-style, German-style and other systems which are none of them perfect. But in the end it will give us a straight choice between a single more proportional system and the status quo. Reform may or may not happen; but that single agreement is a huge leap towards it.

Apart from full discussion of the Lords, the other yawning gap in the report concerns local government, and all the more surprising given the long-term enthusiasm of the Liberal Democrats for genuine power-sharing, and



ONE CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 : 0171-345 2435

indeed that party's current strength in the town and county halls. Is this dour realism on Labour's part? Is it embarrassment? Gordon Brown's proposals for budgetary control are deeply centralising and allow no room for local financial discretion, though even without new money there is much that local authorities could do free of central constraint. But perhaps Labour is not prepared to see its little local embarrassments – its Doncasters and Liverpools – cut loose and allowed real freedom.

Still, it would be churlish to identify only the gaps without celebrating the commitments – for example, to the

incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights, and to a domestic apparatus helping citizens make use of its provisions. Recent discussion of privatisation as a way of securing improvements in London's Underground has once more focused attention on the dearth of city-wide democracy in the nation's capital. The report suggests the simple expedient of asking people whether they want an elected authority. It will be trickier than that. There is no easy way of identifying who the Londoners are who need to be invited to vote. Do they, for example, include the inhabitants of Carshalton

and Uxbridge who, historically, have been most reluctant to be included? But to pose that kind of question is to state the obvious: no reform is clean-limbed and simple. To seek to enact even half the packet of those displayed in this report would be to face down a mountain of opposition – Parliamentary opposition that will be furious, if not wholly cogent. To listen to Prime Minister Major is to be transported back to 1952 – since the country is so well governed, there is no possible justification for abolishing the constituency of Old Sarum. To listen to the more sophisticated Tory opponents of constitutional change is hardly more enlightening – according to David Willets all manner of changes in our economic lives are natural and inevitable ... except modernisation of the way we are governed, which is of course unnatural and to be resisted to the last ditch. The Tory position is, sad to report, little more than a defence of vested Tory interest. Under Conservative rule the Constitution has been allowed to become unbalanced, disordered and, on occasion, a threat to liberty.

It may be that if the Tories lose the election some people (including some Labour front-benchers?) might lose their enthusiasm for constitutional reform. Why do we need radical change when the system allows alternation in power? But there's the real significance and challenge of yesterday's report. It is more than a here-today, gone-tomorrow

The Swiss break the mould

For a country as internally diverse as Switzerland – four official languages, a cacophony of cantons – and one so open to trade and tourism, it is odd how deeply an unflattering national stereotype has lodged abroad. The Swiss are widely perceived as secretive and selfish, boring and smug. Now a more serious charge is added: wilful historical myopia over the Holocaust. In such a context yesterday's move to create a generously large victim fund was not only welcome in itself but also subversive of the stereotype. The Swiss action follows intense international interest in Nazi bank accounts and anticipates the findings of both domestic and American historical commissions. It is none the less a grand gesture, to the credit of the Swiss government and people.

Honesty about growing up

Sir: No wonder so many young girls are suffering from anorexia and bulimia these days ("Why won't you tell me about tampons, Mummy?", 3 March). These girls are afraid to grow up, and have found a shocking way of holding on to their childhood.

Their mothers, meanwhile, are accomplices in this plot, terrified of taking responsibility for adult behaviour and the realities facing them in this world. Thus they present to their daughters an image of the adult world that is frightening and confusing.

My own mother told me, when I was around the age of eight, that I would begin to develop breasts, grow hair in several areas of my body, and begin to menstruate. She then bought me both tampons and sanitary towels and showed me what I would have to do, should menstruation begin unexpectedly at school or some other social gathering; and she always knew when I had my period.

Both she and my father never failed to compliment me on what a lovely young lady I was growing into. They gave me confidence and realistic expectations of what adulthood was all about. I did much the same with my own daughter, never exaggerating the discomfort of period pain and never telling her horror stories of childhood.

I also have a son, with whom I discussed the "facts of life" as and when he asked, so that by the time he was shaving, it was all a natural process of growing up and joining the adult world. And incidentally, why is it that we turn menstruation into such a "problem" area? Men tell me shaving, which in most cases must be done daily, is a huge bore, but they just get on with it.

Mrs ARIELLA LISTER
Hatch End, Middlesex

What a bargain!

Sir: I am much obliged to Gerald Dorey of Oxford (letter, 4 March) for being willing to buy my car for £1,500 on the understanding that, if I give him the £1,500 back, he will provide my family and me with the use of a good-quality car – in perpetuity. Would he kindly stop sheltering behind the relative anonymity of the letters page and publish his address, so that I can take him up on his kind offer?

(Perhaps he has not noticed that the transaction would make sense to him only if the car were worth a great deal more than £1,500. But if that's the case, I might be better advised to keep it.)

The Rev JEREMY CRADDOCK
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Aretha's no softie

Sir: Your report on motorists' top 10 favourite tunes ("Drivers at ease with middle-of-the-road melodies" 3 March) fails to comment on the No 10 entry – Aretha Franklin's "Respect".

Far from being "easy-listening music", Ms Franklin's transformation of the Otis Redding number into an anthem of feminine self-assertion is far more of a "cutting-edge melody", despite its age, than anything Oasis or their counterparts have produced.

Could it be that female drivers favour "Respect" because that's exactly what they want (and so seldom get) from the sizeable number of male drivers who regard their car as a virility symbol?

STEVE PILKINGTON
Stockport, Cheshire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Covert police tactics beyond legal control

Sir: Facial recognition systems ("The face of crime captured digitally", 3 March) are only one facet of the new generation of "intelligence-led" policing methods. There are other methods, such as the increased reliance on informants, the use of bugging devices and the exchange of intelligence information generally, nationally and internationally.

These methods are largely uncontrolled by law. They are being operated either in accordance with guidelines (video surveillance and informants), or under inadequate legislation not designed for the purpose (facial recognition systems and data protection law).

Even the present Police Bill does not cover all listening devices; only those which "interfere with property" or fall within the definition of "wireless telephony". There are present and future generations of bugging techniques – for example, those using infrared light or laser technology – which fall completely outside its provisions.

Intelligence-led methods are covert and intrusive. The Data Protection Act offers protection to individuals in some circumstances, but was not drafted with present-day surveillance techniques in mind. In the absence of a general right to privacy in this country, it is essential that there be specific statutory protection to ensure that such police operations are both fair and accountable, particularly if the evidence gained is to be admissible in any subsequent criminal trial.

MADELEINE COLVIN
*Legal Officer
JUSTICE
London EC4*

Sir: Michael Howard wants to restrict the right of the accused to opt for jury trial in many cases of medium severity ("Howard under fire over plans to curb jury trials", 28 February).

His principal reason, I gather, is that large numbers of these cases result in last-minute "guilty" pleas, often as a consequence of plea-bargaining in the moments before the case is due to be heard. Much expensive crown court time is wasted and the progress of other cases delayed.

The situation is no different in magistrates' courts. A surprising number of trials dissolve at the last minute for precisely the same reasons. The costs will be considerably less, but unlike the crown court, where there will probably be other cases ready to be heard, the day or half-day set aside in magistrates' courts is often lost.

Should not the Home Secretary be looking at a ban on the Crown Prosecution Service agreeing to less serious charges, in response to the offer of "guilty" pleas, during the seven days before the trial date?

The only reason for the last-minute nature of most changes of plea is that lawyers on both sides have not contacted each other before. Human nature will see to it that things are left to the last minute – but if the last minute were to be seven days before the trial a lot of time and money would be saved.

RICHARD WELCH
Nantyglo, Cwmdonkin

Sir: When a burglar broke into our house, he was soon disturbed by my daughter, who arrived just after him. They saw each other just before he climbed back out of the kitchen window. Total damage

Europe fails to give green lead

Sir: The European Union has not shown the leadership on attacking man-made climate change which your article ("EU to cut global warming gases by tenth", 4 March) suggests. The EU has not pledged to cut emissions by 10 per cent or by any other figure. It has simply agreed a "negotiating position" for the continuing talks on when should cut emissions of which gases by when, in the hope that other developed nations will accept a challenging target. If consensus can be reached, the EU as a whole will reduce total emissions of three key greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O) by 15 per cent by 2010.

While this proposal is important, and may breathe life into the currently deadlocked climate change negotiations, it is flawed. Critically missing from the EU's negotiating position is the essential 2005 interim target year, which is necessary to ensure that industrialised nations take early action to limit greenhouse gas emissions, rather than leaving it until the last minute in 15 years' time.

The original proposal from the Dutch government (currently holding the EU presidency) proposed cuts in CO₂ emissions of 8 per cent by 2005, and 12 per cent by 2010. These sub-targets were eliminated in the EU statement, allegedly at the insistence of the UK's John Gummer.

The EU will now be unable to

meet a 2005 target, as the next EU Environmental Council meeting is after 3 June. This is the deadline for a protocol proposal to be formally tabled for the Kyoto Climate Summit in December.

Given that neither the US nor Japan currently accepts the need for any reductions in greenhouse gas emissions before 2010, and with only 23 negotiating days left, the world is on course to fail to agree the urgent action necessary to prevent dangerous climate change.

Dr PATRICK GREEN
*Friends of the Earth International
International Climate Negotiations
Bonn
Germany*

Futile fraud in Albanian poll

Sir: Last May I was privileged to be one of the two UK observers sent to monitor the Albanian parliamentary elections as part of the team from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Once we had witnessed the extent of vote-rigging and intimidation, a number of observers made the unprecedented move of announcing here and then that the elections were fundamentally flawed. I was asked to be their spokesman.

The events of the past few weeks have their origins in that rigged poll. It was so blatant, so naive, and so widespread, that few Albanians could have any further respect for

their "elected" parliamentarians, or the security forces who openly supported the ruling Democratic Party. No wonder then, that when the ill-conceived pyramid schemes collapsed, the people should vent their anger against the government.

The irony is that perhaps Sali Berisha was the best man in modernising his pitifully poor country. Many believe he would have won the elections last May without resorting to vote-rigging. Instead he and his party, could not resist the temptation. He has now no legitimate right to stay, other than to form a coalition government with the opposition parties, dissolve parliament, and ensure that ensuing elections are free and fair.

PAUL KEETCH
*Parliamentary Spokesman
Hertford Liberal Democrats
Hertford*

What Christians owe to Jews

Sir: Andrew Brown's article (Faith & Reason, 1 March), attacking Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's endorsement of the "Judeo-Christian tradition", deserves to be challenged.

There are of course many differences between the two major faiths, but plenty of common elements, and essences of Hebrew religion are found in the New Testament – not least in the teachings of Jesus, and the Lord's

Supper, which is based on the Passover celebrations.

The Exodus traditions of deliverance from oppression are fundamental to Judaism, early Christianity, and now liberation theology, which a lot of people (including the Vatican) don't much like because of the challenge to the status quo.

The Exodus stories were also fundamental to the English Civil War and the American Revolution – Christians who saw themselves as a New Israel. They also echo in the words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a leading American Jew, when he noted that the Baptist minister

Martin Luther King Jr is a sign that God has not forsaken the United States of America. God has sent him to us. His presence is the hope of America. His mission is sacred, his leadership of supreme importance to every one of us ... I call upon every Jew to harben to his voice, to share his vision, to follow in his way. The whole future of America will depend upon the impact and the influence of Dr King.

That is the Judeo-Christian tradition at its best.

The Rev CHARLES BROCK
*Mansfield College
Oxford*

Boiling point

Sir: Will all the water consumers who have to boil their water because of the cryptosporidium organism (report, 4 March) be compensated? The water companies are legally obliged to supply drinkable water, and it costs money to keep boiling water.

C WELLS
*Ruislip
Middlesex*

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

analysis

Fur coats come in from the cold

The popular image is of pretty animals kept in misery until a brutal death. But, says Richard North, the reality is tidy farms, serious investment and the best example of factory farming

Mike Cobblewick owns a very fast-growing business. The 6,000 female mink he has on his farm in Devon will be mated this month and by summer will have an average of five small minks - "kits" - each. Many of them are the quite rare Blue Iris, which fetched about £50 each at auction last month. Around 40 of them are needed to make a coat for the "dumb animals" of the anti-fur ads. Mr Cobblewick's farms are neat and tidy. They bear witness to serious investment, and not merely in the hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of equipment used to produce feed, or for the annual process of treating the skins. The farms don't smell any more than chicken or pig farms

sent to the public imagination, it is hardly surprising that Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an American animal rights group) were able to persuade some of the world's leading models to protest against fur farming (though their doing so has not stopped several of them modelling its product since).

Behind the evocative images there lies a more humdrum reality. Mike Cobblewick's farms are neat and tidy. They bear witness to serious investment, and not merely in the hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of equipment used to produce feed, or for the annual process of treating the skins. The farms don't smell any more than chicken or pig farms



Mike Cobblewick: I'm proud to be a mink farmer

"I'm proud to be a mink farmer", says Mr Cobblewick among the rows of sheds on his English farm, built up over 30 years of riding a notoriously fickle market. "But here, I can't blow my own trumpet". Worse than that, in England he knows he's a pariah. His family and the 10 people he employs face picking and worse from animal rights protesters.

Wherever it is, mink production involves pretty little animals who live in small cages and are gassed to death aged about seven months. From such farms, 85 percent of the world's mink is produced, about 45 per cent of it on Denmark's 1,600 mink farms and very little on Britain's nine. It is paraded on the fashion show catwalks of Milan and Frankfurt. With such images to pre-

see these mostly reassuring scenes, or would necessarily trust a cursory view of them anyway. Instead, they might get in touch with the Government's statutory independent advisers for an informed view. Unfortunately for the fur trade, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) - which includes vets and welfare campaigners - in 1989 reported on fur farming systems and said they "do not satisfy some of the most basic criteria... for protecting the welfare of farm animals". FAWC's chairman then and now, Professor Colin Spedding, says the council felt "it would be very difficult to get it right". Mink (and fox, which we'll come to) were still wild

unfazed about mink farming. From the windows of Birger Christensen, perhaps Copenhagen's leading manufacturer and retailer of furs, Pia Rasmussen looks out on the world's first pedestrian street and sees women of every age and income wearing fur. She says: "We have hardly any protest at all. Oh, perhaps a little some years ago. But nothing since."

But this gloomy position looks less tenable in the light of work by Georgia Mason, an ethologist at Oxford University, let alone a deal of Continental work. Following studies on a British mink farm, Dr Mason says: "As mink as factory farming goes, the mink are probably the best example there is and the least cause for concern." True, on at least one farm Dr Mason has seen very prevalent behavioural problems, but she says: "I think they can be reduced but not totally abolished by proper husbandry". On five farms I saw none of the behaviour she pointed to.

Seen from a Danish perspective, mainstream British prejudices seem rather odd. Danes buy more free-range eggs than the British, and are growing more fussy than most Britons about the way their milk and pork are produced. But most Danes seem wholly

unfazed about mink farming. From the windows of Birger Christensen, perhaps Copenhagen's leading manufacturer and retailer of furs, Pia Rasmussen looks out on the world's first pedestrian street and sees women of every age and income wearing fur. She says: "We have hardly any protest at all. Oh, perhaps a little some years ago. But nothing since."

mother and young do well if left together, and that young siblings also thrive in small groups. As to the notorious gassing, Professor Elifin points out that most farm animals suffer their worst stress being carted to slaughter, but that mink die in a cart wheeled to their cage. He adds: "Video evidence says that when the animal comes in, it can't smell the gas. Within 20 seconds they lose consciousness and are clinically dead in two to five minutes. Moreover, as you take an animal out of its cage it might scream but that doesn't disturb the others."

Mink are kept

in wire cages, and includes the flooring. But - and the same is true of battery hens - there is no evidence that they would prefer a solid floor. Professor Elifin says: "Copenhagen University have taken wire and solid bases and allowed the mink to decide which to spend time on - but they spend equal time on either." However, solid floors become filthy and unhygienic very quickly. FAWC had suggested that mink, being semi-aquatic, might like to have swimming facilities in their

cages. Professor Elifin is doubtful: "It doesn't swim like an otter. It can't see more than 30 centimetres in the water. It sits and watches for prey from the shore and then dives in for perhaps 10 seconds." The Danes suggest that the barrenness of a mink's cage bothers us but not the animal. Dr Mason is less sure: she and a colleague, Jonathan Cooper, are researching mink's preferences, and find the animals quite keen on swimming. "But that's not to say they would miss not doing it," she says. "It may simply be a case of out of sight, out of mind. We'll have to try to find out."

Denmark's leading authority on mink farming, Knud Erik Heller, associate professor at the Zoological Institute at the University of Copenhagen, says we can certainly tell whether mink are stressed, and what's more have a good idea whether they experience "good" or "bad" stress. Broadly speaking, short periods of mild stress are rather good for an animal, but sustained stress can be very bad. "These animals feel a good deal of stress around the times of mating and weaning", he says. But they can be assumed to like the first and not the second, rather like humans, and rather as they would in the wild. Professor

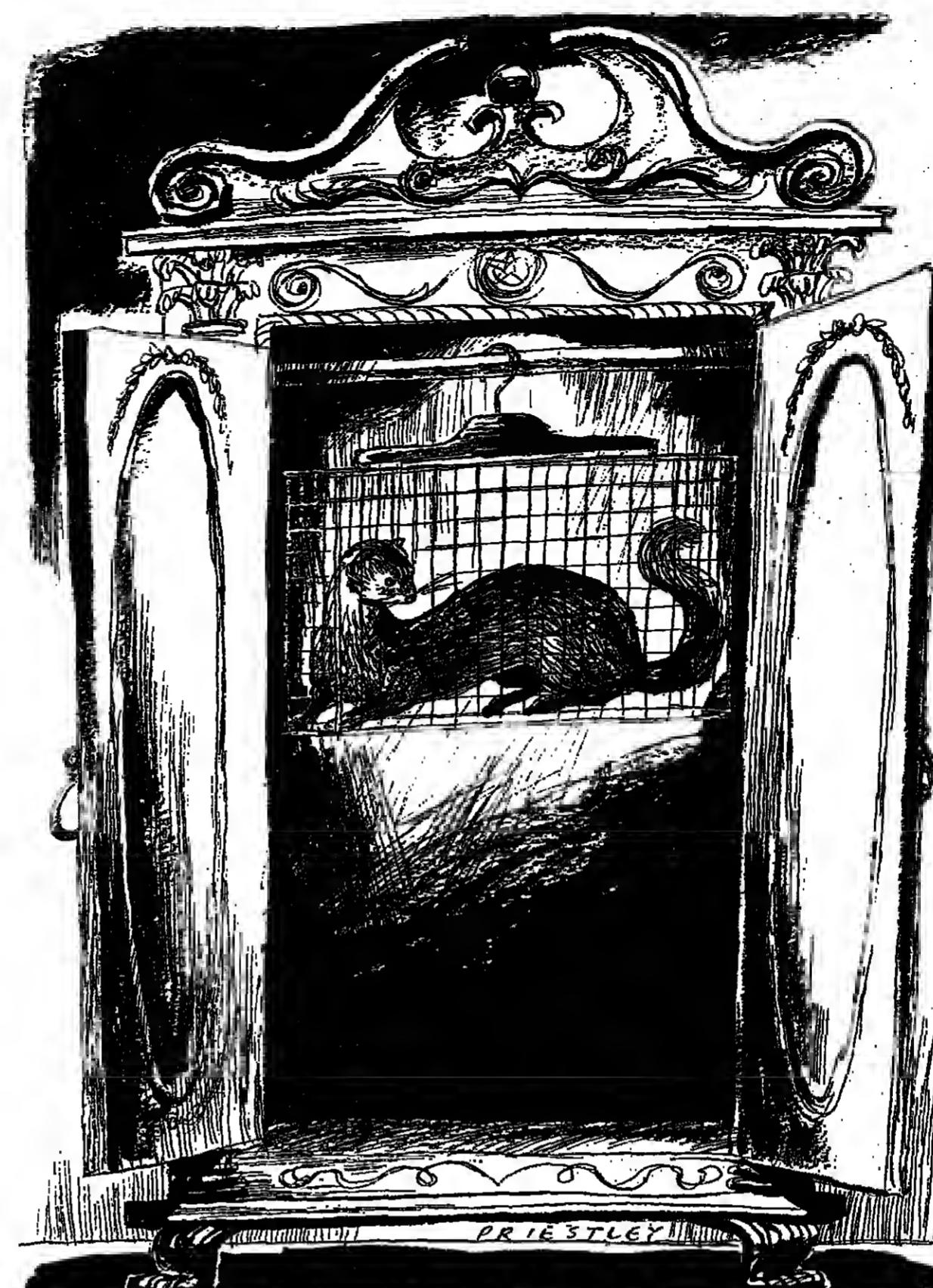
The accord will probably face opposition from countries with little or no fur farming, such as France, which operates with what we might as well call "bystander virtue". The British are sympathetic to the anti-farming case, but determined to try to broker as much improvement as possible. Should Labour win the forthcoming election, it is anyone's guess whether they would allow an agriculture minister to sign up to the convention in October, as currently planned. Any agreement will probably not much dent the prejudice of many people that fur-farming, like fur-wearing, is too much of a luxury to deserve a decent hearing. None the less, it looks as though buying a mink coat is already, and buying a fox coat could soon be, about as morally challenging as tucking into a bacon sandwich. Even now, both are probably already less immoral than paying so little for an egg that it must be produced in a battery cage.

There's no disguising problem toenails



Thick, brittle, discoloured toenails may be caused by a fungal infection. For a free leaflet and advice on how they can be cured write to FREEPOST STEPWISE, Dept. IND060397 PO BOX 5314, London W6 0GQ, or call FREEPHONE 0800 200 210.

FREEPHONE 0800 200 210



Heller stresses that much of what kindly people might assume must be good for animals may actually merely be good for the people wishing it so. "I honestly can't find anything to improve the condition of mink on farms".

There are no fox farms in Britain and very few in Denmark. Their management is controversial, and some mink farmers say they wouldn't undertake it. The Danish Animal Welfare Society's vet, Ewid Weber, says she has little complaint about mink farming but does not approve of farming foxes.

To the untutored, and possibly anthropomorphising, eye there is something doggy and baleful about the way a caged fox returns one's stare. They can seem nervous.

However, things are improving, especially with the provision of a shelf which the fox can use as a retreat. Birthe Broberg, the senior veterinary officer at the Danish Ministry of Agriculture, says: "My experience is that before legislation was brought in you would see very barren cages and I felt that they weren't acceptable. But with the changes I thought I could see a difference in the fox. You didn't see the special behaviour of pacing and rolling around."

There is solid evidence that foxes respond well to being given a nest, and that handling when young helps them with human contact later. There is good evidence that foxes can be tamed, and thus perhaps made into surprisingly good candidates for factory farming.

The difference in view between British and Danish feeling is soon to be tested. A standing committee of the Council of Europe is due to meet at the end of April to discuss an updated set of standards for the farming of fur-bearing animals. It is composed of vets from various agriculture ministries, with welfarists - mostly British - as observers. An early draft enshrines the current industry best practice for mink, and includes new provisions for nests and handling for foxes.

The accord will probably face opposition from countries with little or no fur farming, such as France, which operates with what we might as well call "bystander virtue". The British are sympathetic to the anti-farming case, but determined to try to broker as much improvement as possible. Should Labour win the forthcoming election, it is anyone's guess whether they would allow an agriculture minister to sign up to the convention in October, as currently planned.

Any agreement will probably not much dent the prejudice of many people that fur-farming, like fur-wearing, is too much of a luxury to deserve a decent hearing. None the less, it looks as though buying a mink coat is already, and buying a fox coat could soon be, about as morally challenging as tucking into a bacon sandwich. Even now, both are probably already less immoral than paying so little for an egg that it must be produced in a battery cage.

The same joke, and it has lasted well

I was leafing through a brief history of William Hogarth the other day, in case the subject should come up in conversation in this his centenary year, and I should have to display some rudimentary knowledge of the man, and one thing in it brought me up short. It was an entry describing young Hogarth's sixth year. "In 1703, Family moves to St John's Gate, where Richard Hogarth (father) opens a Latin speaking coffee house." The coffee house apparently did not prosper, as four years later poor Hogarth *per se* was in prison for debt, but I am not sure whether it was because the coffee was no good or because the obligation to talk in Latin was too daunting. It seems extraordinary to us today, when ancient Latin and Greek are now normally heard outside the classroom and not much inside, that there was a time when Latin was spoken as a colloquial tongue long after the last Roman had vanished. But it is not so long ago that Latin was considered necessary to a gentleman.

Well, you don't have to be very smart to realise that I managed to get three Latin words into that last sentence without anyone's eyebrows going up. Latin is still very much all around us. It may be a dead language, but its bones come to the surface every time we dig a bit. For instance, there was a good Latin joke in the Jeremy Nicholas programme which I think most people would still understand, and I will test

And it has not entirely vanished. There was a Radio 4 programme presented by Jeremy Nicholas not so long ago, which looked at Latin today and discovered at least one person who still talks Latin on a daily basis *as part of his work*. He was a jovial American working at the Vatican whose job it was to communicate with Catholic dioceses all round the world, and who often found that his only common language with a Latvian or Paraguayan cardinal was Latin. He did not speak Latvian or Spanish, and the man at the other end of the line did not speak English. Ergo, he used Latin as his lingua franca.

This is especially true of the language of footnotes, which is full of expressions like "op cit" and "qv" and "cf" and "passim" and "sic". I had always wondered why the abbreviation for "compare" was "cf" until just now I did what I should have done 30 years ago and looked it up in the dictionary. It is short for "confer" which is presumably the Latin for "compare".



Miles Kington

that theory by bringing you the joke now.

Here is the joke.

Apparently there was a school which had to change its motto from Latin to English. The motto in English was "I hear, I see, I learn". Fair enough. Unfortunately, in Latin the motto came out as "Audio, Video, Disco".

Donnish chuckles. End of joke.

Of course there are Latin phrases which we use every day without thinking it strange, such as "status quo", or "anno domini", or "de

"in the same place", and this is because I once was present at a most embarrassing moment whose memory I treasure even now. I used to share weekly French tutorials at university with a fellow undergraduate called Martin, and one week we had both prepared essays on the great but not very interesting French poet, Alfred de Vigny. It was Martin's turn to read out his essay. The tutor and I sat there half-asleep until Martin, talking about some poetic trick of de Vigny's, said:

"This particular poetic device is used a lot in *Ibid*, sir."

At this the tutor jolted awake.

"*Ibid*, eh? And what pray is *Ibid*?" said the tutor. "Oh, it's the title of a long poem by Alfred de Vigny," said Martin, obviously surprised that the tutor was ignorant of it. "It's very good. They're always quoting from it."

The tutor glanced across at me to make sure that he wasn't hearing things. I raised an eyebrow. We both exchanged a silent but very enjoyable guffaw. "Carry on," said the tutor.

The

same

The s

A glimpse at the dark heart of Toryism



Polly Toynbee
Commentator
of the Year

David Evans embarrasses other Tories like the breaking of wind in a public place

Opposite The veil slipped a little yesterday and we glimpsed the underbelly of Tory Man - David Evans, motor-mouth MP for Luton, naked as nature intended. In an unguarded interview to sixth-formers, he talked of black bastards and his Labour opponent's bastard children. He said absurdly that the Birmingham Six had killed hundreds, and that Virginia Bottomley, dead from the neck up, only got her job because she's a woman.

No, no, that's only "dear lovable David" or "that perfectly horrible little s**t" it again, said assorted Tory voices hastening to explain away his "incorrectness". Come, come, every party has its buffoons, all part of the rich warp and weft of Westminster life - where's your sense of proportion? Where's your sense of humour? These mainstream Tory voices imply that I am a typical boring blue-stocking humourless *Independent* type - "You Islington chablis socialists," said one, "you are far too sensitive about politically incorrect language." Of course they deplore every word that Evans said - disgusting, disgraceful, but, well, that's Evans for you: "Salt of the earth - has his finger on the working-class pulse. They love him."

Imagine if some Ken Livingstone had said anything a fraction as "off message". Think of the outcry at some mild heresy such as putting a penny on the income tax to pay for the NHS - Mawhinney would have it up there on posters faster than you could say loony left. A cry would go up that the militants are creeping out from under the Blair bed. As for Labour, they'd have had anyone a quarter as outrageous as Evans out on his ear by yesterday; the Tories will do nothing about their Militant Tendency.

No, it's just silly old David. But is it? In the lobbies and the corridors, the bars, clubs and conferences, and all the places in which Tories meet you bear the words, the phrases and above all the ideas that those words reveal. Wogs and hibos, tarts and m*ngs, chinkies, bits of skirt and bits of fluff (they are old, remember - average age of Tory members is 64). We all know... that Caribbeans are lazy doleheads, and everyone's on benefits, a scrounger. We all know... fatherless children all grow up delinquent and teenage girls get pregnant on purpose to get flats. We all know... all asylum-seekers are frauds and all young blacks are muggers.

Now none of us talks in private the way we speak and write for public consumption. Jokes, shorthand, slang, there are a hundred things we say to our friends that we phrase differently for strangers. But not those words, not those ideas.

Interestingly, every Tory I telephoned yesterday, even on the liberal wing, used the phrase "politically correct" at some point in the conversation, as in "We don't want to be too politically correct, do we?" or "I know he's awfully politically incorrect but..." - and there

you have it. The right-wing press, right-wingers of all kinds bandy about the "politically correct" epithet because it has become a portmanteau cover-up for the unspeakable. Those who mock non-racist or non-sexist language as "politically correct" actually mean, but dare not say, that racism and sexism is OK with them. They pretend that it is the language of equality that they detest - but actually it is the idea of equality they deplore.

So have we glimpsed into the dark heart of Conservatism - or is it just "maverick", "one off", "our man on the terraces" Evans? Take immigration, for instance. By chance yesterday in the Commons Nicholas Budgen urged the Prime Minister to attack two liberalisations of immigration law promised by Labour - but John Major snubbed him, determined not to play the race card (his last remaining loophole of genuine decency - though after him what vileness comes next?). When I talked to Budgen, he was angry: "Strict control of immigration is important - but it only comes on page 480 of our election guide. Go and ask my people in Wolverhampton what they think. It was very silly of the Prime Minister to give in to the politically correct lobby."

John Carlisle MP, never knowingly outflanked on the right, praised Evans yesterday: "More of that kind of talk would get us back on the working-class vote. Let's call a spade a spade. When Margaret Thatcher spoke of immigrants swamping us, she struck a chord. You should have heard my taxi driver talking about the Huns and being pushed around by a load of foreigners. Ask the chap in the public bar and he'll tell you about asylum-seekers ... and lots more on our own actions."

On the other wing, Edwina Currie (whose chances of re-election are vanishing by the day) was in free-talking mood yesterday, scathing about the wrong tone her party strikes: out of touch, out of date, with no notion of human rights, race, gender, equality or gay issues. "MPs think social issues don't count." Their tone and attitude is 1947, not 1997. They think women are all wives and mothers, and the only ones they tolerate in the Commons are unthreateningly stupid, like Dame Jill Knight and Lady Olgia Mairland. They don't understand the world has changed, and they cause offence whenever they talk about single mothers, marriage or divorce. The Tory party has driven the voters away."

Yes, there are decent Tories who will not talk race: black bastard talk is vulgar and loutish. But you don't have to scratch them to find that they are all indeed conservatives, and conservatives are not liberals. David Evans embarrasses them like the breaking of wind in a public place, because it is what so many of them do themselves in private. And if the more fastidious of them do not, then they tolerate talk and jokes like that in virtually every dwindling Conservative club full of old, sour, mean, white faces up and down the land.

The Bishop of Birmingham seems a remarkable fellow. He appears fantastically unbothered by the seething hatreds and accusations of racism that have been flying around his King's Norton parish for the past couple of years, since the Rev Eve Pits was taken on as part of the ecclesiastical team.

The trouble was revealed when the Rev Pits complained in church that, almost from the time of her appointment, she had been treated as "a doormat" by her senior colleague: she assumed the bishop would support her, but found only a typed letter of resignation waiting for her signature at the episcopal HQ.

When asked about the matter, the Bishop assured the press his turbulent vicar was a "talented pastor" and that, if she would resign quietly, she would get her stipend and could keep her parish house.

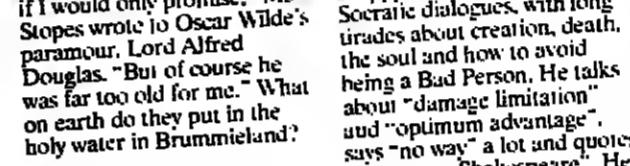
For a leading cleric to assume this would be any comfort to a person who had pursued her vocation through a thousand obstacles, to become the country's first black lady vicar, seems howlingly insensitive. Next day, the Bishop announced his engagement to Ms Sabine Bird, with the words "We are both surprised and delighted by this turn of events", as if it were happening to somebody else. How detached from reality must you be, to be surprised by your own actions?

But then Bishops of Birmingham have always been a little wayward. Philip Hoare, who has just finished writing a study of the celebrated "47,000 perverts" trial in 1918, points out that the Bishop of Birmingham at the time was one Russell Wakefield, an upstanding chap, pillar of the Established Church, who presided over the "Cinema Commission of Enquiry" in 1917, set up by the National Council of Public Morals to look into loose behaviour on screen.

Possibly fired by images of celluloid sin, the upstanding bishop set his crozier at Marie Stoops, the shockingly controversial women's rights campaigner and contraception impresario, who was on the commission representing the Society of Authors.

The Bishop was so devoted to me, he implored me to marry him and said he would give up being a Bishop

Oration negation: Luciano Benetton, above, said he was glad to have started a debate. So did Noel Gallagher, below left, and so did Michael Bogdanov, below right



if I would only promise," Ms Stoops wrote to Oscar Wilde's paramour, Lord Alfred Douglas. "But of course he was far too old for me." What on earth do they put in the holy water in Brummie land?

Maybe the Bishop would have benefited from a little chat with the Almighty, and I don't mean prayer, or meditation or mystical communion. That is what an American writer called Neale Donald Walsch claims to have done: and the resulting colloquy, *Conversations with God*, a best-seller.

Mr Walsch's "uncommon dialogue" with the Almighty began in 1992 when he was writing an irritable letter to Him (as you do) complaining about his lot in menopausal terms: "Why isn't my life working?" ... "What have I done to deserve a life of such continuing struggle?" To his amazement, his pen began writing by itself and God, he claims, replied. Walsch says the answers from on high came fluently, as if he were taking dictation, and went on for three years.

What kind of conversationalist does God turn out to be? He alternates

snappy interchanges, like Socratic dialogues, with long tirades about creation, death, the soul and how to avoid being a Bad Person. He talks about "damage limitation" and "optimum advantage", says "no way" a lot and quotes from "your Shakespeare". He sprinkles his discourse with camp French italics ("I've seen it") and makes dull little jokes about hell. "Good grief," cries Walsch after one sally, "you're a regular comedian." "It took you this long to find that out?" God enquires wittily. "You looked at the world lately?" God is surprisingly liberal about sex ("If I didn't want you to play certain games, I wouldn't have given you the toys") but as disarming as a Chancellor on Budget Day when it comes to booze and fags ("If you've ever taken alcohol into your body, you have very little will to live"). Oh and the Creator of All Things explains that yeah, there is life on other planets, sure, they've visited the earth and yup, they're looking at us now - but (displaying, for a spiritual being, an unexpected degree of bewilderment savvy) He can't say any more because it's all going in a follow-up volume.

"This does not seem."

The Bish offers a deal, and God speaks out on damage limitation, aliens and the demon drink

john walsh

Walsh comments with masterly understatement of this self-created pile of bollocks, "like what a communication with God would feel like". The Redeemer ripostes, in Woody Allen-speak: "You want bells and whistles? I'll see what I can arrange."

Last year Michael Bogdanov attacked theatre critics, and now four of them are to direct plays at the Battersea Arts Centre in London, thus risking the scorn and critical abuse that are their own stock-in-trade. Speaking on the Today programme, Bogdanov said: "Of course I welcome this news. I'm glad to be able to initiate a debate into..." I can't remember what it was supposed to be into - something like "Creativity and Critical Responsibility". I expect. But I'd stopped listening by then, having cut myself with a razor out of sheer irritation.

And what was it Noel Gallagher said, when they had caused with his pronouncement that taking ecstasy was like having a cup of tea in the morning? "I'm very glad," he intoned, negotiating his way uncertainly through this syllabic minefield, "to have initiated a debate on the danger of drugs..." And lastly, if you can stand it, there is Luciano Benetton, the supersmooth *cavaliere capo* of the Italian clothing dynasty. When I interviewed him last year, and asked about one of his bad-taste advertisements (the bloodstained army jacket one; the copulating horses one; the HIV one), he replied: "No we're not worried by the public's reaction. We are happy to have initiated a debate about Bosnia/ racism/Aids..." Are you as tired as I am of all this debate-initiation? It is now the standard response from anybody whose unprompted response would have been "Yes I was a complete pillock to have done/suid/published that. wasn't I?"

The hilarity seemed to spread. Mr Grobelaar. The balding net-diver was leaving court one day when a fan from the gallery plucked his sleeve. "Can you and I play golf when this is all over, Bruce?" he asked. "I don't think so," said Grobelaar. "I can only see myself playing computer golf for the immediate future." "Oh come now," said the fan. "I believe one of those open prisons has a lovely nine-hole course..." "Thanks for the moral support," growled Grobelaar.

Leases Furnishings
IT Support Forget it all
for an Instant Office

Each Regus office is fully fitted with the latest telecommunications technology, furniture, office equipment and videoconferencing. Together with multi-lingual support staff, you have everything you need to relocate a small project team or even a whole department. Instantly. Simply walk in, sit down and start work.

Regus is the leading worldwide provider of fully serviced business centre offices, with over 130 prime locations in 34 countries.

Each office represents a 'no risk' investment - you can rent one when you need it, for however long you need it. With no time-consuming legal work and no restrictive long-term commitments. Forget all the usual constraints for an instant office.

Birmingham • Bristol
Dublin • Glasgow • Leeds
London • Manchester
Norwich • Oxford • Reading
Slough • Southampton

A large, modern office building with many windows and a prominent entrance, likely representing a professional workspace.

Regus
CALL 0500 522 533
Europe • USA • South America • South Africa • Asia • Australia

The success story that is Europe

The more people know about the EU, the more they are in favour of it, argues Giles Radice

Today the European Movement Europe 97, a campaign to highlight the advantages of British membership of the European Union (EU). British membership may be the official policy of the three main parties. But that does not deter a sustained barrage of often inaccurate criticism by politicians and much of the media, nor does it encourage the provision of accurate information about its benefits. Our campaign aims to help fill the gap.

Opinion poll after opinion poll has shown that the majority of the British people are anxious to find out more about the European Union and what it means for them. Mori research for the European Movement reveals that only 14 per cent

describe themselves as having a "good knowledge" of the EU, while only 7 per cent know about the single market. Significantly, those with good knowledge of the EU favour staying in by a margin of three to one. The majority of those with poor knowledge back leaving. In other words, the more people know about the European Union, the more they support Britain being part of it.

Europe 97 will explain why nine out of 10 business people think we should stay in the EU. The key point is that Europe is now where Britain sells its products. In 1995, 58 per cent of our exported goods went to the EU. We sell more to Germany than to the US, more to France and Belgium than to the whole of Asia, more to

Netherlands than to China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia and the other Asian "tigers" put together. And it is mainly because of British membership of the EU that so many big foreign companies have invested in the UK. As Ian Gibson, chief executive of Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK), market and the foundation of our business.

When business prosers, so do British living standards. As the TUC has pointed out, millions of jobs now depend on the sales of British and British-based foreign firms in the single European market. Many of these would be at risk if Britain left the EU. Niall Fitzgerald, chairman of Unilever, has warned: "Careless talk about

withdrawal costs jobs." Indeed, one of the most significant developments of the past few months is the concern about the consequences of British isolation in Europe expressed by leaders of major companies, including BP, British Aerospace, BAe, Glaxo, Guinness, Shell, Northern Foods, Shell Transport and Trading, Unilever and Vauxhall, while big foreign investors, such as Rover, Siemens and Toyota, have warned about the dangers of Britain being permanently outside a strong European currency.

The benefit are not only economic. It is obvious, for example, that pollution does not recognise national frontiers. So the EU has introduced a set of common standards, from which we in Britain gain. Ten years ago

half of British bathing beaches failed to meet EU standards. Today nine out of 10 fly the "blue flag" to show that they meet them.

Europe 97 will be reminding people that the EU, by healing the bitter conflict between France and Germany, has helped to keep peace in Western Europe for half a century, the longest period of peace for 300 years. War memorials in our cities, towns and villages bear witness to the cost to Britain of the European civil wars of the first part of this century.

The political case can be put another way. As part of the EU, the world's largest trading bloc, Britain has greater clout. For example, the 1993 agreement to free up world trade, in which the EU negotiated as one bloc.

At the other extreme there is the Jerusalem Syndrome, which describes the condition affecting some visitors to Jerusalem who identify with, and temporarily believe, that they are a major figure such as St John the Baptist or the Messiah. Does this not remind you of Sir James Goldsmith, who since he moved to France has seen himself as a British Charles de Gaulle, ready to lead us out of Europe and into the Promised Land?

Finally there is de Clerambault's Syndrome - a form of delusional erotomania where a person believes that someone loves them when there is no evidence for this. Does this not exactly describe John Major's relationship with the electorate? But there is another possibility. He could be suffering from Option Paralysis, the inability to make a decision [such as the date of the general election] when faced with an excessive range of choices. But don't try to cure yourself, John. After months of waiting for the election, we're all suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome anyway.

The sick truth about those political gaffes

To explain some of the antics of politicians you need a good medical dictionary, says Glenda Cooper

Have you noticed how many politicians lately seem unable to control what they are saying? Political analysts often tell us they have made a "gaff" or are playing some sophisticated power game. But could they simply be ill?

Tourette's Syndrome is a rare disease of which two common manifestations are shouting obscenities and making inappropriate comments. Leafing through a medical textbook, this suddenly seems ominously familiar. Is David Evans, previously seen as an obnoxious

right-wing Tory, in reality a misunderstood type suffering from the syndrome?

Looking back at the news coverage this week, he might not be the only one. What about our Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, most recently in the news after his *faux pas* over the single European currency? His friends - well, John Major - may describe his remarks as a "slip" or a "mistake", but such obscenities as the Scottish parliament or the single currency fall from his lips all too frequently for us to see them as any-

thing but a medical condition. A doctor could see that these two politicians are not alone in their suffering. Look around the House of Commons - perhaps itself a victim of Sick Building Syndrome - and many others appear to be medically challenged as well.

Are the Euro-sceptics suffering from Münchhausen's Syndrome by Proxy - a syndrome whose sufferers inflict harm on other people to gain attention? Sound familiar? Certainly they have succeeded in damaging the credibility and

unity of the Conservative Party. And everyone now knows Teresa Gorman's name.

On the opposition benches there is an increasing danger of Paradise Syndrome - the debilitating feeling that things are going so well that they can only get worse. The polls may show that Labour has an unassailable lead, but all Austin Mitchell, MP for Grimsby, can do is gloomily mention Tony Blair in the same breath as Kim Il Sung and describe himself as a "squashed hedgehog on the road to the manifesto".

Finally there is de Clerambault's Syndrome - a form of delusional erotomania where a

business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

COMMENT

BAT hit for £160m to cover pollution claims

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

BAT stunned the City yesterday with an unexpected £160m provision against the future cost of long-running pollution claims, the extension of an olive branch to the anti-smoking lobby and a renewal of hope that the tobacco to financial services group was planning a merger of its two main businesses. The shares, a hostage to sentiment for much of the past year, tumbled another 18.5p in close at 531p yesterday.

In a dramatic climbdown from the adversarial rhetoric that had dogged recent tobacco-related litigation in the US, BAT said yesterday it would be prepared to strike a deal with lawyers representing former smokers if they came up with a "sensible proposal".

The move opens the way for a multi-billion-pound settlement that would have been inconceivable until an onslaught of litigation in the past year made the tobacco companies' hawkish position on compensation increasingly untenable.

Martin Broughton, chief executive, blamed the spiralling cost of fighting court cases and the impact of the escalating litigation on BAT's share price for the apparent capitulation. He said: "BAT's US tobacco subsidiary, Brown & Williamson, spent \$100m (£62m) on legal fees last year, up from \$60m in 1995, and he expected the figure to continue rising.

News of BAT's new-found willingness to accommodate its opponents came as it announced a sharp slowdown in profits growth last year, with the

group's Eagle Star to Allied Dunbar financial services arm hit by an unexpected £160m extra provision to cover the likely cost of old pollution cases. BAT capped the day's revelations with a hint that a demerger of its tobacco and financial services operations was firmly back on the agenda in the group's attempt to return to a growth track in shareholder value.

Mr Broughton said BAT had hired two firms of lawyers in the US to advise it on the process of getting congressional ap-

proval for any settlement. But

he insisted a deal would only be acceptable if it drew a line under all present and future litigation. He said the sort of numbers lying around the press - some reports have suggested plaintiffs are seeking a \$6bn-a-year payment from the industry - were wide of the mark, but he admitted that paying up to \$100m a year would leave shareholders better off.

BAT's shares closed lower as the market digested the unexpected pollution charge which reflected a change to the way Eagle Star assesses its likely

liability in respect of pollution cases stretching back to the 1960s. Mr Broughton admitted it was not possible to say whether there would be further provisions.

He declined to comment on whether BAT had held discussions with Commercial Union on a possible merger of its financial services arm with CU or whether the putative deal would have been the prelude to a break-up of its two main businesses.

BAT has been under pressure for some time to split its tobacco

and insurance arms which have no apparent synergies.

Pre-tax profits in the year December increased by 5 per cent to £2.50bn from £2.38bn in 1995, which compared with a 26 per cent rise in profits the previous year. Earnings per share rose an even more modest 2 per cent to 48.6p (47.7p) but the well-covered dividend increased 8 per cent to 26p. A foreign income dividend increased the effective value of the payout by 3.5p.

Within the group result, tobacco made further progress after its strong performance in

1995, with profits rising 7 per cent in local currency terms to £1.63bn. Volumes increased by 4 per cent despite a continuing slowing of demand in the US and world market share increased to 12.8 per cent.

Financial services, which takes in the Farmers business in America, slipped 3 per cent to £1.02bn but stripping out the pollution provision, there was an underlying 16 per cent increase in life and investment profits and a £22m rise in general insurance profits to £680m.

Comment, page 19

Sterling bumps against ceiling as rates stay put

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The pound humped up repeatedly against its old lower limit in the exchange rate mechanism without breaking through in the 24 hours up until trading closed in London yesterday.

The currency's thwarted bid to pass the psychological barrier of DM2.75 came as all the signs were that Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had resisted Bank of England advice at yesterday's monetary meeting to raise interest rates.

"Sterling has been up against the ceiling several times in the past 24 hours without quite making it," said Simon Briscoe,

UK economist at investment bank Nikko.

Neil MacKinnon at Citibank predicted that it was only a matter of time. "It will have another bash at testing the DM2.75 level in the very short term and will probably go beyond it."

The health of the British economy compared with the rest of Europe and investors' expectation that a Labour government will raise the level of interest rates after the general election help explain the strength of the pound.

Virtually none of the City experts thinks the Chancellor will increase the cost of borrowing before then. "The chance of a rate rise before the election is remote in the extreme," said

Geoffrey Dicks at Nat West Markets.

"Any narrowing of Labour's lead in the polls would be seen as a negative for the pound," said Mr MacKinnon. In a reversal of the traditional pattern, the financial markets expect a tougher interest rate policy under Labour.

Investors also see a greater chance that a Labour government would take the pound into the single currency. That would diminish its current attractiveness as a safe haven from any possible turbulence related to the transition to European Monetary Union.

Economists foresee the exchange rate remaining strong until either British growth slows

down or the Continent catches up. But one warned yesterday that the pound would be falling at a time when inflation would be on the increase anyway.

"The strong pound will begin to unwind next year, when it will reinforce increasing inflation," said Andrew Sennance, director of economic

forecasting at the London Business School.

The economy could grow without triggering inflation. Although economists are divided over the need for a rise in interest rates now, a majority forecast that inflation will be above its 2.5 per cent target at the end of this year and next year. The higher exchange rate is expected to reduce inflation

below what it would otherwise have been only in the short term.

The pound closed down slightly at DM2.7590 in London yesterday. After another strong start to trading on Wall Street, shares in London reached a new record. The FTSE 100 index rose by just over 2 points to 4,360.1.

Co-op rejects Regan's advance

Nigel Cope

Andrew Regan's audacious attempt to buy some of the non-food interests of the Co-op movement received a big setback yesterday when the Co-operative Wholesale Society firmly rejected his approach.

The 31-year-old entrepreneur, who controls the tiny investment vehicle Lanica Trust, had hoped to woo the old-fashioned movement with the prospect of a £500m deal.

But the Co-operative Wholesale Society snubbed his overtures following its regular monthly board meeting yesterday. "For purposes of clarification, the CWS board confirmed that CWS has not entered into any discussions with Mr Regan or Lanica in respect of any of its business interests and has no intention of doing so."

The Co-op's refusal to meet Mr Regan compounds the embarrassment of the affair. Lanica Trust's shares have been suspended since last month when news of its intentions were leaked to a Sunday newspaper.

There was further controversy yesterday when rumours swirled that HSBC James Capel was set to resign as Lanica's brokers. This was later denied.

The Stock Exchange declined to comment on Lanica's share suspension. The company's brokers admitted the shares had been suspended for longer than anticipated and said: "We would hope that the shares would be reinstated in the near future."

Lanica's shares have proved a volatile investment and soared 31p to £19.50 in mid-February before they were suspended. The shares stood at 116p last September when Mr Regan bought a controlling stake in what was then called New Guernsey Investment Trust.

The Stock Exchange has refused to elaborate in its conversations with the company, only saying it has not launched a full-scale investigation.

Analysts say that even if Lanica's tilt at the Co-op colossus proves unsuccessful, a shake-up of its operations is becoming increasingly likely. It sprawling interests include farming, supermarkets, department stores, estate agencies, travel agencies and funeral parlours.

Disbelief as Sir Bryan joins C&W

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Senior British Telecom executives were yesterday said to have reacted with surprise to the appointment of Sir Bryan Carsberg, the former telephones regulator, to the board of Cable & Wireless' planned £5bn cable group.

Sir Bryan, who from 1984 to 1992 headed the watchdog Ofcom, was told he was delighted at the job offer. He said: "I'm a great believer in this deal. It will provide really strong competition which has taken a while to get going in the cable industry since the early years. I have said many times that it has suffered from too much fragmentation and have supported moves towards consolidation."

His salary and workload have yet to be decided.

C&W described the appointment as a "great coup" for Dick Brown, the chief executive who joined the group last year from the US. The other two outside non-executives are Valerie Gooding, managing director of Bupa, and John Keenan, a director of Grand Metropolitan.

The C&W communications board will have just a single executive director. It is Graham Wallace, the new chief executive poached from Granada, while Mr Brown will be non-executive chairman. A further eight non-executives will represent the main shareholders in the venture. A separate executive board will be responsible for day-to-day matters. Three directors have so far been announced, including Mr Wallace, but C&W declined to give a target for further appointments.

Comment, page 19

five years since he left Ofcom. Lord Tebbit joined BT as a non-executive director in 1987, the same year he left the Thatcher government and just two years after departing from the Department of Trade and Industry, where he had played a key role in BT privatisation.

Sir Bryan, who joined the board of Nynex CableComms last year, said he was delighted at the job offer. He said: "I'm a great believer in this deal. It will provide really strong competition which has taken a while to get going in the cable industry since the early years. I have said many times that it has suffered from too much fragmentation and have supported moves towards consolidation."

His salary and workload have yet to be decided.

C&W described the appointment as a "great coup" for Dick Brown, the chief executive who joined the group last year from the US. The other two outside non-executives are Valerie Gooding, managing director of Bupa, and John Keenan, a director of Grand Metropolitan.

The C&W communications board will have just a single executive director. It is Graham Wallace, the new chief executive poached from Granada, while Mr Brown will be non-executive chairman. A further eight non-executives will represent the main shareholders in the venture. A separate executive board will be responsible for day-to-day matters. Three directors have so far been announced, including Mr Wallace, but C&W declined to give a target for further appointments.

Comment, page 19

Cadbury Schweppes beverages sale provides firepower to fuel £1bn-plus acquisition deal



Profits perk: John Sunderland, chief executive (left), and chairman Dominic Cadbury, announcing a £592m pre-tax gain. Photograph: FT

Investment column, page 20

T&N to cut global jobs after £388m loss

Magnus Grimond

T&N, the automotive components group, was left reeling from a series of blows yesterday after unveiled plans to ax an expected 2,500 jobs from its worldwide operations alongside a record £388m loss for last year.

It also emerged from Germany that a key 2.4 per cent stake in Kolbenschmidt, a leading German pistons manufacturer which T&N has been

stalked for years, had been sold to a private group. T&N shares fell 5p to 156.5p yesterday.

The job cuts came in the wake of competition and "operational inefficiencies" in the group's pistons and brake linings businesses. The group has set aside £15m to cover up to 1,500 redundancies in the current year and expects a further £25m charge in its 1997 figures for what analysts forecast will be a further reduction of 1,000 in

the workforce of over 30,000.

Sir Colin Hope, chairman, said there would only be a modest number of job cuts in the UK, with the biggest cost problem, bearing the brunt of the reduction.

Underlying operating margins at the group slid from 9.1 per cent to 9.1 per cent last year. Sir Col

in said the objective was to get them above 10 per cent again.

The headline pre-tax loss,

which compares with profits of £120m last time, was broadly in line with expectations following T&N's decision to make a £15m charge to draw a line under its long-running asbestos liabilities.

Sir Colin said he was "relaxed" about the sale of the Kolbenschmidt stakes to Rheinmetall, a private automotive components business, despite the fact that they were held under option by Commerzbank on T&N's behalf until the end of December.

The headline pre-tax loss,

House prices on the rise again

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

House prices rose last month, confirming the "modest recovery" in the housing market, despite the annual rate of inflation at a higher - and rising - rate of 9.5 per cent.

The increase in February fol-

lowed a drop in prices the previous month. This turned out to have been a one-off adjustment for the big gains at the end of last year, the society said.

The housing market is con-

tinuing to recover at a mod-

erate pace.

The annual rate of

house price inflation is in line

with our forecast of 7 per cent

for the fourth quarter of 1997," it said.

The increase in the 12

months to February was 6.8 per

cent, down from 7.1 percent in

January. The average house price now stands at £16,612.

There were sharp fluctuations

month-to-month in the price of

new housing, Halifax said.

In addition, prices paid by

first-time buyers jumped by 2.1

per cent in February following

a 2 per cent fall the previous

month.

The Halifax figures were

more or less in line with Nationwide's house price index. Last week it reported a 0.7 per cent rise in February, but put the annual rate of inflation at a higher - and rising - rate of 9.5 per cent.

Although mortgage lenders are keen to play down the dangers of an unsustainable boom in the housing market, some economists think house price inflation might climb into double digits later this year. It is already well past this point in Greater London.

Higher earnings growth, along with the prospect of income tax cuts next month and windfalls of free building society shares later in the year, are likely to boost house purchases.

In addition to the effects of high consumer confidence and pent-up demand to move house after the long slump in the market, some parts of the country are experiencing a severe shortage of homes for sale.

Last week Nationwide said this was "causing upward pressure on prices in certain sectors of the market and frustrating many potential buyers".

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100		Dow Jones		Midex		FTSE 250		FTSE SmallCap	
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield(%)	Close	Day's change	Change (%)

<tbl_r cells="10" ix="3" maxcspan="1" maxr



COMMENT

The effect during the years of transition is that we will pay twice – once through our taxes for those already in retirement and a second time by paying the funding costs of future pensions for those joining the workforce.

To misquote a famous advertisement for Vodafone, "It's bold, but not that bold". Billed as the Government's big election idea, the planned pensions shake-up is not, when examined closely, as radical as it seems at first flush. Nor are its effects on the public finances as great, either in the short or long term, as might be thought.

What the Government could and perhaps should have done was to abolish the state pension altogether for those under the age of 25 and made the provision of private pensions compulsory, subject, of course, to the usual safety net. What is proposed, notwithstanding Labour's siren warnings, falls a long way short of this uncompromising but eloquent and rather more realistic approach to the problem.

The essence of these proposals is not an abolition of the minimum state pension at all, but a privatisation of it; the money still comes from the government but the pension becomes funded rather than paid out of current government revenues.

The effect during the years of transition from a pay-as-you-go to a funded minimum state pension is that we will pay twice – once through our taxes for those already in retirement and a second time by paying the funding costs of future pensions for those joining the workforce.

According to Andrew Dilnot of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the accumulator effect of this phenomenon on the public finances would be approaching £2bn annually after 10 years, equivalent to 1p on the basic rate of income tax.

This will, to some extent, be offset by the proposed reversal in the tax treatment of pensions. The Government wants to make voluntary pension contributions payable out of net income, rather than gross, the quid pro quo being that pension income would be tax free. In itself, this is a reasonable enough thing since it will put pensions on an equal footing with other forms of savings like Isas and PEPs. But the real benefit is that it provides a very considerable cash flow benefit, a one-off boost to tax revenues.

Even so, it is not going to be enough to offset the paying twice phenomenon. So the net effect of these proposals is that tax and spending are going to be higher, not lower.

The real difficulty with this big idea, however, is that it only partially addresses the true problem. This is not, as widely thought, some great demographic explosion in Britain's pension costs, for if the present arrangements were left as they are, national insurance contributions would actually fall. No, the problem is not that we cannot afford the present system, but that it provides a level of benefit that falls a long way short of our expectations. In that sense, Britain faces the very reverse of what our European partners are grappling with, where the difficulty is very generous state and company pension arrangements but not enough money to pay for them.

Funding the state pension goes some way to solving the problem, for at least future generations of pensioners will get the benefit of an accumulated investment return. Even so, the state pension will fall a long way short of the decent living wage people expect in their old age. The fundamental problem of how to force people to save adequately for their declining years is not being addressed at all.

Tobacco deal is still a long way off

The tobacco companies put their finger in the dyke 40 years ago and have held back the flood of litigation with relative ease ever since. They have had a good run when you consider the overwhelming weight of evidence against cigarettes, but it was never going to be possible to shore up the defences indefinitely against the might of the US legal system.

Yesterday's admission by BAT's chief executive, Martin Broughton, that the company would consider any "sensible proposals" from the lawyers queuing up to sue can be seen therefore as a pragmatic assessment of a lost cause. Sooner or later a case will go against the industry and when that happens, legal costs of \$100m a year will seem a minor irritation compared to the crushing financial costs that will follow.

Any deal, however, will remain elusive as

long as there is such a yawning gap between the expectations on both sides. The American tobacco industry makes a profit each year of about \$6bn and the lawyers aren't minded to settle for much less than that. BAT hints it might be prepared to pay as much as \$100m a year – which is what it spent last year on legal fees – in exchange for immunity from all present and future litigation. It's a big gap.

Two further problems remain. Assume a deal is struck between the tobacco giants and the plaintiffs whereby a proportion of profits are paid each year into a fund from which victims would be compensated and states reimbursed for their outlay on Medicaid. For such a levy to have any meaning, restrictions would have to be imposed on the companies to prevent them simply passing the cost onto consumers. Such a level of state intervention is simply inconceivable in America and it would never get Congressional approval. A deal is a way off yet.

Sir Bryan follows a well-trodden path

What are we to make of the appointment yesterday of Sir Bryan Cursiter, former head of the telecommunications watchdog Ofcom, to the board of Cable & Wireless Communications?

BAT was full of indignation. What? Sir Bryan on the board of a competitor company

so soon after leaving the sensitive post of regulating the telecoms industry? But, perhaps in all the excitement of merging with MCI, BT's corporate memory has become clouded.

Wasn't it the then Norman Tebbit who joined the BT board in the very same year as he quit the Cabinet and only two years after leaving the post of Secretary of State for Trade and Industry where he was directly responsible for the telecoms industry?

By contrast, Sir Bryan's period of quarantine seems positively epic. It is now five years since he left Ofcom. If, after all that time, there is still an element of the old boy network in operation, it is in the way Cable & Wireless was awarded a mobile telephone licence in the late 1980s. Lord Young, who was then in charge at the DTI, says it was Sir Bryan's decision. The rest of the world assumes it was down to Lord Young himself, who, of course, went on to chair C&W.

There is a very simple way of resolving these difficulties. Ban all politicians, senior civil servants and regulators from taking up sinecures with companies they have previously been responsible for. That, however, really ought not to be necessary. Experience should teach companies and their investors to steer well clear of ministers and civil servants seeking a comfortable berth. British Steel, British Gas, NFC and, of course, BT have all underperformed the market after employing the services of former ministers. Could C&W Communications be the one to buck the trend?

Andersen Consulting revenues at record \$5bn

Roger Trapp

The growing trend for businesses to outsource non-core activities helped boost world-wide annual revenues at Andersen Consulting to a record \$5.3bn (£3.3bn) last year.

Though the firm reported "vigorous" growth across all global areas, the Europe/Middle East/Africa/India region saw the biggest gain, up 22 per cent to \$1.9bn. Staff numbers in that region rose 21 per cent, to 16,128, compared with an overall 18 per cent rise to 44,801.

Business process management, as the US-based firm calls outsourcing, was the area with the biggest rise – fees rose 46 per cent to \$582m in the year to 31 December 1996. Industry sources forecast that the total world-wide business process outsourcing market will grow from about \$110bn in 1995 to more than \$222bn in 2000.

Organisations that focus on activities "further up the value chain" than mere IT outsourcing are expected to do particularly well, he added.

Mr Ellis added that organisations seeking to transform themselves to meet increasing competition and other challenges were looking to Andersen in particular because of its "ability to operate across borders" and the ability to bring world-class knowledge and experience to bear.

Such breadth of knowledge and of geographical coverage also helped the firm run as a separate unit from the accounting and business advisory arm since 1989, in other areas, he added.

For example, communications saw revenues rise 32 per cent to \$755m on the back of the firm's ability to transfer knowledge from the US telecoms market – which was deregulated earlier than others.

Grid appeals on pension ruling

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

National Grid yesterday appealed to the High Court against a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman ordering the company to pay back £46.3m of surplus cash removed from its pension fund.

The move followed a final judgment last month by the Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, which argued the Grid had "mis-used" the money, part of a £62.3m surplus identified in 1992. About 50 per cent of the surplus was used to increase pensioners' benefits while 70 per cent was used to improve the pensions element of the Grid's voluntary redundancy scheme.

The Grid also asked the court to postpone payment until the full hearing, expected in the next few months. However, the preliminary application to postpone the settlement could take place before the end of the group's accounting year, which runs to the end of March.

So far the Grid's accountants have argued the company does not need to make a formal charge for the pensions problem from its profits. Instead the amount will be listed in the accounts as a "contingent liability". The Grid said if it lost the case it would also have to increase its contributions to the fund by about £600,000 a year.

Last night a Grid spokesman insisted that the company believed it had acted lawfully over the pensions surplus. "We are challenging this on points of law. We will be arguing that the way we allocated the surplus was fair and lawful."

If the Grid loses the case privatised electricity companies could have to hand back almost £1bn to their pensions funds, which had their origin in a single scheme. National Power has already issued its own court proceedings to clarify the argument, while Eastern Electricity has said it could be forced to pay back £75m.



A STRONG YEAR OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

"Cadbury Schweppes produced record turnover, profits, margins and earnings and generated £137m free cash in 1996 against a background of organic expansion and acquisition.

1996 RESULTS

	1996 £m	1995 £m	% Change
Sales	5,115	4,776	+ 7
Trading Profit	671	600	+12
Pre-Tax Profit	592	511	+16
Underlying Free Cash Flow	137	100	+37
	Pence	Pence	
Earnings per Share (FRS 3)	34.1	31.3	+ 9
Underlying EPS*	34.1	29.9	+14
Dividend per Share	17.0	16.0	+ 6

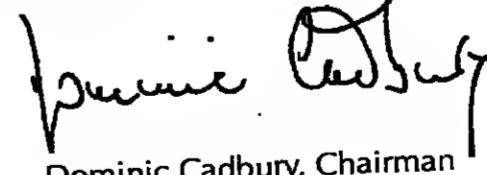
A final dividend of 11.8p is proposed which, with the interim of 5.2p already paid, makes a total of 17p per share for the year.

*Excluding disposal profits in 1995 of £15 million (£14 million after tax).

We are a truly global business operating in growth markets all around the world. In the US, Dr Pepper continues to outperform the soft drinks market and it is being launched internationally into new markets such as Mexico, Australia and Russia.

1996 saw outstanding performances by our core confectionery companies with product innovation the key to growth in most of our major markets.

At this early stage in the year we are confident of further growth and success in 1997 despite the impact of the stronger pound."



Dominic Cadbury, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKETPLACE

French hotel group to sell £260m stake in Compass

John Willcock

Compass shares fell 3.7 per cent to 713.75p yesterday after Accor, the French hotel group, said it would sell half of its 21.5 per cent stake in the catering company to cut debts.

Accor, the world's fourth biggest hotel operator, said it intended to place the 11.5 per cent stake in Compass with institutions through a global bookbuilding operation, co-ordinated by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

At yesterday's prices the 11.5 per cent stake was worth about £260m. Accor shares rose 3.1 per cent to Fr799 after reaching a record high of Fr810 at one stage during the day.

Accor said that it was going ahead with the sale of the full knowledge and permission of Compass's management. The bookbuilding started yesterday afternoon and is expected to be completed by tomorrow.

Compass said it was not concerned about the drop in the price of its shares.

"We're all confident there will be strong demand for our shares," said Roger Matthews, Compass's managing director.

Francis Mackay, vice-president and director general of Compass, said in Accor's statement: "The reduction of the Accor stake, in looking to large international institutional investors, allows us to widen the Compass shareholding and favour the company's liquidity."

Accor said it agreed not to cut its remaining Compass stake to under 10 per cent for 12 months. The upward limit on Accor's stake, if it were to buy in the market at a given time, was put at 11 per cent.

In a previous agreement, Accor could not sell more than 5 per cent of its holding in Compass over a 12-month period.

IN BRIEF

• Ivory & Sime, the troubled Edinburgh-based fund management group, has hired a group of fund managers from Scottish Amicable to run its investments in smaller companies to plug the gap left by the sudden departure of its previous team. The new team comprises John Johnston, Stephen Grant and Glen Nisimo and they join the other new faces at Ivory & Sime which lost many of its senior managers when they quit to set up their own "boutique". Sir James McKinnon, chairman of Ivory & Sime, said: "The appointment of the well-respected UK smaller companies team is good news for the company. The board looks forward to the marked out performance of the next 12 months continuing." The smaller companies team had been run by John Todd but he was one of the fund managers who defected earlier this year.

• Higher bonuses and salaries drove up staff costs at CS First Boston and Crédit Suisse Financial Products, the investment banking units of Crédit Suisse, the Swiss banking group. Staff costs shot up by 25 per cent in 1996 to top 6bn Swiss francs (£2.5bn) although trading income rose 33 per cent to SFr12.9bn. Despite operating income rising 17 per cent to SFr12.9bn, Crédit Suisse reported its first ever loss of SFr2.43bn a result of "extraordinary structural and strategic measures". The bank has introduced a new method for calculating the amount of capital it needs to set aside for credit risk which resulted in a capital of SFr3.9bn which led the bank in December to warn it would report a technical loss for 1996. The loss was greater than the SFr2.1bn originally forecast because of a SFr1.95m increase in general reserves for banking risk and a decision not to activate a SFr170m tax credit.

• The Government should stay out of a European single currency, a former member of the Chancellor's panel of independent economic forecasters said yesterday. Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University said a floating exchange rate regime was better than European monetary and economic union for all EU members. Even if the rest of the EU went ahead with EMU, the UK would be better off outside it, he said. "Tying the currency to a foreign vehicle exposes the economy to greater macroeconomic instability from world and supply-side shocks that floating largely protects against," Professor Minford said.

• Sir Alec Rankin, chairman of Christian Salvesen, said Sir Gerald Elliot, former chairman, should use the support he claims he has from shareholders to convene an extraordinary general meeting if he wishes to replace all or part of the current board. Sir Gerald has asked shareholders to vote against the board's resolution to approve a proposed special dividend of 34p per share which will be combined with a share consolidation. He said changes at the top were required in the long-term interests of shareholders. The vote will be put to shareholders at a meeting on 13 March.

• Ibstock has sold five of its brick manufacturing plants, which were the subject of undertakings it gave to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in July 1996 when it bought Redland Bricks, for £53m. It will use the proceeds to reduce borrowings. The plants were sold to Amorphous Brick Company which paid £44m on completion and will pay a further £5m in instalments, with interest, over 21 months from completion. A further sum of around £6m payable by Redland under an agreement entered into by Ibstock and Redland at the time of the acquisition of Redland Bricks.

Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
ABP (F)	223m (212m)	53.5m (88.4m)	118.9p (117.6p)	4.25p (3.5p)
BNC (F)	4.7bn (4.3bn)	1125m (1085m)	13p (15p)	12.5p (12.41p)
BAT Industries (F)	24.5bn (23.4bn)	2.505 (2.38m)	48.5p (47.7m)	16p (15.75p)
British Biotech (O)	3.5m (4.2m)	-1.55m (-2.05m)	-0.30 (0.25)	n/a (-)
BW&D Securities (F)	15.9m (14.7m)	2.54m (2.51m)	0.5p (0.3p)	50 (50p)
Cadbury Schweppes (F)	5.1bn (4.8bn)	532m (522m)	34.1p (31.3p)	17p (16p)
Finelist Group (L)	59.4m (52.6m)	7.1m (-1.05m)	10.3p (9.25p)	2.20 (1.8p)
HTV (F)	139m (135m)	9.5m (-1.1m)	10.5p (10.3p)	4.15p (3.75p)
Metal Bulletin (F)	32.9m (19.3m)	5.00m (2.3m)	34.4p (26.3p)	20p (16p)
Stat Plus Group (F)	13.9m (12.0m)	3.72m (3.78m)	12p (12.1p)	7.20 (7.05p)
Trace Computers (H)	- (1)	0.15m (-0.05m)	1.03p (1.025p)	n/a (-)

(F) - Full (L) - Interim (O) - Before exceptional

Succession under way at the top for Arjo Wiggins



Arjo Wiggins, the Anglo-French paper and packaging group, yesterday filled the gap created by last week's resignation of Daniel Mein, the chief executive.

The announcement that he would be succeeded by Philippe Beylier, currently managing director, coincided with a report that Sappi, the largest paper and forest products group in South Africa, had recently held talks with Arjo Wiggins about merging their coated wood-free businesses.

Arjo has been criticised for its debt load, slow growth in operating profits and under-performing units such as Europcar, the car rental company it owns with Volkswagen. The company's stock, however, has been buoyed by an upbeat outlook for the French hotel industry.

Arjo is expected to reduce debt to Fr14bn this year from Fr17bn last year, analysts estimate.

That comes after the company last month reported an 8.2 per cent rise in 1996 fourth-quarter sales to Fr7.17bn.

Arjo, which has said it is trying to cut debt, focus on its core business and grow through acquisitions, yesterday said it formed a venture with NH Hoteles de Spain to open between 60 and 72 two-star hotels in Spain in the next seven years.

consolidation in the European paper industry. "We have talked to a large number of players about the possibility of restructuring our coated wood-free business and one of those was Arjo," he said.

Operating rates are high because companies have failed to curtail production. "In the short term, prices may decline," he said.

Arjo also said it was seeking a successor to Cob Stenham chairman (above), who turned 65 in January. He has agreed to remain chairman until the end of September.

Biotech moves towards first product launch

Magnus Grimond

British Biotech, the UK's leading biotechnology company, yesterday took a step closer to launching its first product by submitting an acute pancreatic drug for European approval.

If the application for Zacten to the European Medicines Evaluation Agency is successful, the company could see its first sales in some of the 15 countries of the European Union as early as next spring.

Keith McCullagh, chief executive, described the move as an important achievement for the company, which has yet to make a profit and yesterday unveiled a further £17.6m deficit for the nine months to January.

It marks a landmark in the history of the company ... While we wait to hear from the EMEA, manufacturing and pre-marketing activities are under way in Europe and progress continues with the further clinical development of both Zacten and Marimastat.

Analysts were less enthusiastic than Mr McCullagh about yesterday's news and the shares rose just 0.5p to 251.5p. One follower said there had been little new in the announcement and ex-

pressed some concern over the data used to support the Zacten application. Until further information became available in May it would not be possible to test how rigorously the company had been in differentiating the effects of the disease on the body's organs after the new treatment, he suggested.

Elsewhere, Marimastat is "continuing exactly on track", according to the company.

The nine months' losses which were said to be "well within budget", compare with £15m for the comparable period of 1995/96 and include a third-quarter deficit of £1.55m, down from £4.05m before.

The latest three months saw "turnover" soar from £4.5m to £5.3m after milestone payments totalling £3m from Glaxo Wellcome for a potential arthritis and inflammatory bowel treatment and £3.4m from Tanabe Seiyaku, the company's partner for Marimastat in Japan.

Cash of £193m includes the £145m raised from last year's rights issue.

turnover only £8.2m there is still plenty to go for.

Investors should expect the trickle of deals to continue but shouldn't worry about it. Chris Swan, chairman, has shown he has the ability to absorb a stream of acquisitions and the 26 per cent rise in earnings per share recorded in the six months proved he can do it without diluting earnings.

Shareholders were rewarded with a 2.2p dividend, a 16 per cent increase.

It has been quite a year for Finelist, one of two quoted motor parts retailers and distributors that are steadily carving out the estimated £2.4bn-a-year car parts market. The acquisition last year of Motor World, together with the Ferraris deal, has effectively doubled the size of the company, but with half-year

capital expenditure up 25 per cent, there is still plenty to go for.

Investors should expect the trickle of deals to continue but shouldn't worry about it. Chris Swan, chairman, has shown he has the ability to absorb a stream of acquisitions and the 26 per cent rise in earnings per share recorded in the six months proved he can do it without diluting earnings.

Shareholders were rewarded with a 2.2p dividend, a 16 per cent increase.

Floated at 130p nearly three years ago, Finelist's shares have nearly tripled, shrugging off calls on shareholders such as the 4-for-1 rights issue in January to pay for the Ferraris deal. Worries that it was just

another 1980s stock market shooting star that used its high-flying shares to create a house of cards have proved well wide of the mark.

The key to Finelist's progress is the economics of scale that will give the group a huge advantage over its smaller peers. Compared with the small back-street chains that typify the industry, Finelist's buying power with manufacturers such as Lucas grows with every deal it does.

On the basis of forecast

profits this year of £1.74m, the shares trade on a prospective

price/earnings ratio of about 18. That incorporates much of the good news, but the shares remain good value.

ABP warns on windfall tax

Clifford German

Associated British Ports is not a utility, is not a monopoly, and should not be subject to the Labour party's windfall tax, chairman Sir Keith Stuart said yesterday. "There is an Oligas, Offet, Offel and Offter. But there is no Offport."

If Labour did impose a tax on ABP, "it would drive jobs and business to places like Rotterdam, a subsidised port," he said.

Charles Orange, finance director, also shrted off fears that the surge in sterling would damage UK exports and the group's business.

"Our revenues and payments are expressed in pounds, and any fall in exports would be counterbalanced by a rise in imports," he said.

Income from property returned growth in the second half of the year, and could benefit from the upturn in the property market.

But the City was dis-

pointed with the results for 1996, which saw cargo handled rise by 3.3 per cent to 11.8 million tonnes and turnover increase 4.7 per cent to £47.2m.

Pre-tax profits for the year rose 5.8 per cent to £9.3m after deducting an expected £3m charge to get out of a loss-making pipe-coating joint venture.

Analysts had been expecting anything between £9.5m and £10m, and the shares, which had climbed 20 per cent since the middle of December, fell back 12.5p from the overnight peak of 318p. Only the dividend met expectations, increasing almost 20 per cent to 7.75p.

ABP plans another year of heavy capital investment, although it is unlikely to repeat last year's £83m.

Further out there are plans to develop both Hull and Birmingham. The chairman is still hopeful of winning the contract to run the port of Ipswich, which he said was now a shadow of its former self.

ABP will have to argue its case hard, but the company is

already exceeding its commitments to local programmes.

The remarks about the licence review accompanied HTV's annual results which, despite optimistic noises, on prospects from Mr Sherwood, disappointed investors and sent the company's shares down by 10p to 350p.

He said the company was talking to the ITC over the terms of a review which could take effect in 1999, and which would be four years before the 10-year contract was due to expire.

Mr Sherwood and Christopher Rowlands, chief executive, hope for a "significant reduction" to reflect the vastly increased competition from other television channels. They are reluctant to put a figure on it, but some analysts think the cut could be as much as 50 per cent.

HTV will have to argue its case hard, but the company is

Sherwood confirms he wants HTV licence fee to be reviewed

Clifford German

Louis Sherwood, chairman of HTV, yesterday confirmed this week's report in *The Independent* that he was seeking a review of the company's licence terms as he disclosed that its annual £34m licence fee swallowed up almost 25 per cent of last year's advertising and broadcast revenue.

He said the company was talking to the ITC over the terms of a review which could take effect in 1999, and which would be four years before the 10-year contract was due to expire.

Mr Sherwood and Christopher Rowlands, chief executive, hope for a "significant reduction" to reflect the vastly increased competition from other television channels. They are reluctant to put a figure on it, but some analysts think the cut could be as much as 50 per cent.

HTV will have to argue its case hard, but the company is

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Cadbury's new head finds the City's soft centre

The City seemed to warm to John Sunderland, the new chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes yesterday, marking the shares 19p higher at 529p after his first big presentation to the broking community. As well as the 16 per cent increase in full-year profits to £592m, analysts liked what they heard from him about focusing the group more on shareholder value and his promises that Cadbury would be less profitable in its use of equity issues than it has been in the past.

Mr Sunderland takes over

the group at an interesting time.

While chairman Dominic Cadbury was pouring cold water on the possibility of a demerger yesterday, he was also hinting that Cadbury could afford an acquisition of £2bn to £2.5bn following the sale of its half-share in bottling group Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages.

Schweppes claims that Dr Pepper is growing ahead of its markets, while the long decline of the Seven Up brand is stabilising.

But the threat remains from Coca-Cola, which is putting more resources behind Mr Pibb, a brand pitched directly against Dr Pepper.

In spite of the share price rise yesterday, many analysts

left their 1997 forecasts unchanged at £565m-£580m.

Rich man, poor man, superstar

The Church of England entered the political fray again at the start of this week with a fresh call for help for the poorest 30 per cent in society. Income distribution has become an urgent moral matter in Britain because of the sharp increase in inequality during the past 20 years. Incomes in Britain are growing further apart faster than anywhere else in the industrialised world.

We are still not as polarised as the US, where the economist Richard Freeman has described the deterioration in prospects for unskilled American men, especially young men, as an "economic disaster". For example, not only are these men more likely to be unemployed; if they were in work their pay, adjusted for inflation, actually fell by a staggering amount during the 1980s – by a fifth for young males with less than 12 years of schooling.

The most likely explanation for the increasing inequality in the US and UK, and rising unemployment on the Continent, is a growing divergence in people's ability to create economic value – their productivity, or underlying ability to earn.

When this occurs, one of two things can happen. Either the distribution of earnings will widen to a corresponding degree, and employers will continue to be willing to hire the least productive people because they can pay them relatively less. Or, if the framework of employment legislation prevents this, then companies will stop wanting to hire the individuals with lowest earnings ability. Unemployment for the unskilled will stuck at a high level.

New technology is a highly plausible explanation for greater inequality in how productive people are in their work. The case is well made by two American economists, Robert Frank and Philip Cook of Duke University. In their book *The Winner-Takes-All Society*, their argument is that information and communications technology has extended the "superstar" phenomenon to wider areas of the economy. Thus any opera diva, tennis champion or movie



Diane Coyle

As economic inequality grows, the winner-takes-all ethos is spreading to all sections of society

star can easily reach a worldwide audience. Consumers will prefer to see or hear them, even at a slightly higher cost, because of their known star quality. There is much less of a market for the tenth or twentieth best.

Frank and Cook point out that superstar status increasingly applies outside the conventional areas of sport and entertainment. A global brand will make its manufacturer far more money than a very similar product that does not achieve the same recognition in the market place. That means there are superstar product designers, engineers, advertising executives and so on – anybody with a proven record of success will become a celebrity in his or her own field. The authors write: "The winner-takes-all markets... have permeated law, journalism, consulting, medicine, investment banking, corporate management, publishing, design, fashion, even the hallowed halls of academe."

Information and communications technology has helped this spread in two ways. It decreases the cost of delivering a service or product and it increases the market for the service. If I am a star opera singer, once I have sung and recorded an aria it can be very cheaply disseminated; and the market for my singing is likely to be world-wide, not just the people who can get to the near-

est opera house. The same is true if I am a star surgeon. Technology means I can diagnose and treat patients around the world, and I will be known around the world.

Frank and Cook go on to argue that this is inefficient in economic terms. They have a

series of arguments. First, they say, superstar economies generate income inequality, which is a social cost. True, but not an economic inefficiency.

Second, they argue that winner-takes-all markets cause effort to be misallocated. Everybody wants to be a superstar, so too many people pile into professions where the winner-takes-all conditions apply. They write: "In increasing numbers our best and brightest graduates pursue top positions in law, finance, consulting and other overcrowded arenas, forsaking careers in engineering, manufacturing, civil service, teaching and other occupations in which an infusion of additional talent would yield greater benefit to society."

Apart from the fact that this contradicts their earlier argument that the superstar phenomenon now encompasses engineers, surgeons and professors, it is also breathtakingly value-laden about what careers are "socially useful". The despise law, finance and consulting form a large and growing part of modern post-industrial economics. If they are so much in demand it is hard to see in what sense they are not useful.

The third argument relies on a separate point about over-crowding into less socially useful areas. Frank and Cook see an analogy with the "tragedy of the commons" whereby common

land is overgrazed because individuals' private benefits carry a social cost. So, they suggest, there is overcropping into the field of mergers and acquisitions law because successful candidates do not realise that their job is gained only at the expense of a rival's failure to get in. All those failed candidates would contribute more to the economy if they had decided to be teachers in the first place.

The analogy is false, of course. Land is in fixed supply; the supply of M&A jobs – or demand for lawyers – is growing. The fact that not all of them become stars does not imply that there is an inefficiently large number of lawyers. If there were, real pay for lawyers at the bottom of the heap would decline.

The book's conclusion – that very high incomes should be very heavily taxed – plays well in some political circles. It would be an interesting proposition to put to the voters – should incomes over, say, £100,000 a year be taxed at 75 per cent? Governments that tried it would probably find many of their "winners" emigrating.

Nor would tax punishment change the underlying economic forces. In a weightless economy driven by information technology, individuals' earning power varies more than in a heavy economy. Different people doing the same job will actually be serving different markets – from a small-town solicitor or attorney through a specialist employment lawyer to a global star every international corporation wants to hire for its most important cases. In fact, the dispersion will probably increase.

In the long run, the hope must be that the technological revolution will create a rising economic tide that eventually benefits everybody. For all the social horrors and inequality of the Industrial Revolution, it is easy to forget that it had transformed living standards within a generation. The inequality and tension are features of the transition. Policies for adjusting to a new kind of economy will have to focus on helping the poor rather than penalising the rich. Which is where the Church of England came in.

Training for the North Pole is a trying business

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



What a drag: Yet another expedition is heading north

There are so many expeditions to the North Pole setting off around now that soon the top of the world will be a BT agm.

The latest is Julian Hanson Smith, the 35-year-old managing director of Financial Dynamics, a firm of City pr people.

His team, which will drag sledges 150km from the 89th Parallel to the Pole, consists of Charles Shaw, managing director of Morgan Lowell, an office refurbishment company; Richard Hickson, a self-employed management consultant; Joe Merchant, who plays bass guitar in the London production of *Grease*; and Pen Hadow, of the Polar Exploration Company, Somerset, who will play for lawyers at the bottom of the heap would decline.

The book's conclusion – that very high incomes should be very heavily taxed – plays well in some political circles. It would be an interesting proposition to put to the voters – should incomes over, say, £100,000 a year be taxed at 75 per cent? Governments that tried it would probably find many of their "winners" emigrating.

Nor would tax punishment change the underlying economic forces. In a weightless economy driven by information technology, individuals' earning power varies more than in a heavy economy. Different people doing the same job will actually be serving different markets – from a small-town solicitor or attorney through a specialist employment lawyer to a global star every international corporation wants to hire for its most important cases. In fact, the dispersion will probably increase.

In the long run, the hope must be that the technological revolution will create a rising economic tide that eventually benefits everybody. For all the social horrors and inequality of the Industrial Revolution, it is easy to forget that it had transformed living standards within a generation. The inequality and tension are features of the transition. Policies for adjusting to a new kind of economy will have to focus on helping the poor rather than penalising the rich. Which is where the Church of England came in.

ceived a call encouraging her to vote against the special dividend. Will she support her son? We'll have to wait for the egm.

As BZW commences its move to Canary Wharf, I hear it has poached most of neighbouring Morgan Stanley's mail room staff.

Two people from the Morgan Stanley mail room left some time ago to set up their own company, and when they won the contract to run BZW's room they took another couple out of the American bank. Sounds like Morgan had better batton down its tea ladies.

Gavin Strang, shadow agriculture minister, has promised that Labour will safeguard the future of the British pinta delivered to the door. Does this have anything to do with the fact Northern Foods, whose chairman, Chris Haskins, is an informal adviser to Labour, delivers more than 1.5 million doorstep pintas every day? Mr Haskins is being touted as a possible Labour peer if Tony Blair's lot get in.

A Northern spokesman says: "I don't think there is a connection". Chris is a good friend of Gavin Strang, but Labour have been saying this [about deliveries] for years."

You can't get much worse luck than Ronson, the maker of cigarette lighters. In January 1996 its Newcastle factory went up in flames, knocking a £1m hole in the company's accounts.

It wasn't, however, due to over-zealous testing of lighters. In fact, the fire started in another factory. The flames leap-frogged one factory and landed on the Ronson premises, where lighter fluid was being stored.

A Ronson spokesman said: "Until then the fire looked containable, but when it reached the lighter fluid it looked like the Gulf War."

The Inland Revenue is promoting its self-assessment scheme on 3 million Chinese and Indian takeaway lids. The "Addis" carry the merry caption: "Don't get stuffed by Self Assessment!"

When Labour's Brian Donohoe asked the Chancellor Ken Clarke to justify this novel promotion, the noted gourmand replied: "According to research, 60 per cent of self-employed manual trades people... regularly eat Chinese takeaways."

Watch out for "New Labour, New Danger" on your next carton of prawn-fried rice.

John Willcock

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling			Dollar			D-Mark			UK			France			Germany			US			Japan			
	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Base	600%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	0.50%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	0.50%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	0.50%
US	16008	10.8	10.0	10001	—	—	53844	—	—	15281	—	—	—	10000	—	—	15281	—	—	15281	—	—	15281	—	—
Canada	23223	61.69	61.62	170162	—	—	107994	—	—	17343	33.31	33.26	33.26	107994	—	—	17343	33.31	33.26	17343	33.31	33.26	17343	33.31	33.26
Germany	127343	70.63	70.56	17113	—	—	107994	—	—	127343	33.31	33.26	33.26	107994	—	—	127343	33.31	33.26	127343	33.31	33.26	127343	33.31	33.26
France	127343	70.63	70.56	17113	—	—	107994	—	—	127343	33.31	33.26	33.26	107994	—	—	127343	33.31	33.26	127343	33.31	33.26	127343	33.31	33.26
Denmark	127343	70.63	70.56	17113	—	—	107994	—	—	127343	33.31	33.26	33.26	107994	—	—	127343	33.31	33.26	127343	33.31	33.26	127343	33.31	33.26
Japan	19540	99.95	99.88	12134	54.53	54.53	15281	157.55	157.55	15281	157.55	157.55	157.55	15281	157.55	157.55	15281	157.55	157.55	15281	157.55	157.55	15281	157.55	157.55
ECB	14763	24.25	24.25	11635	11.62	11.62	15281	11.62	11.62	14763	11.62	11.62	11.62	15281	11.62	11.62	14763	11.62	11.62	14763	11.62	11.62	14763	11.62	11.62
Sweden	10524	250.10	250.10	71201	63.90	63.90	15281	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10	250.10	15281	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10
Denmark	10524	250.10	250.10	71201	63.90	63.90	15281	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10	250.10	15281	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10	10524	250.10	250.10
Netherlands	30368	85.77	85.77	15281	—	—	15281	—	—	15281	—	—	—	15281	—	—	15281	—	—	15281	—	—	15281	—	—
Ireland	10322	50.50	50.50	15281	—	—	15281	—	—	10322	50.50	50.50	50.50	15281	—	—	10322	50.50	50.50	10322	50.50	50.50	10322	50.50	50.50
Spain	23130	126.65	126.65	14481	59.37	59.37	15281	59.37	59.37	23130	59.37	59.37	59.37	15281	59.37	59.37	23130	59.37	59.37	23130	59.37	59.37</td			

Cyborgo fuels Cheltenham Pipe dream

Racing

GREG WOOD

It is a fortunate trainer whose yard is home to more Cheltenham contenders than there are races at the Festival to run them in, but then Martin Pipe has never been a man to operate on anything but a grand scale. No fewer than 30 members of the champion's string are potential challengers at next week's meeting, and yesterday Pipe offered some helpful hints to punters wishing to finalise their investment portfolios.

Remarkably, Pipe has seven entries for the opening Supreme Novices' Hurdle

alone, but it is his two runners in the Gold Cup a week today, Cyborgo and Challenger Du Lac, which are uppermost in his thoughts. Though it is one of the few major events which has so far eluded him – and the shameful circumstances surrounding the failure of Carville's Hill when favourite five years ago are still painfully fresh in the memory – the trainer has long believed that Cyborgo offers his best chance of winning a Gold Cup.

"The bookmakers give my two horses no chance," Pipe said yesterday, "but I can assure you I fancy them both to run big races. Cyborgo is only seven and whatever happens this year

we've got a few more cracks at the race with him to come."

"Challenger is very well in himself and must have a good chance. If you took out his fall behind Coome Hill in the Hennessy and his poor run at Cheltenham afterwards he's done nothing wrong, winning the Murphy's and a little race at Wincanton."

Pipe has clearly not consulted the bookmakers' lists in the last few days, since Cyborgo has been backed from 25-1 down to as low as 14-1 following the news that Charlie Swan will take the ride.

Other members of his team will also go to post with significant ante-post support behind

them, most notably Make A Stand, the Tate Gold Trophy winner, who will be joined in the Champion Hurdle by Pridwell, who finished third to Collier Bay 12 months ago and generally runs well at Cheltenham.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: *Andrina*
(Carlisle 3.00)
NB: *Maestro Paul*
(Wincanton 3.10)

"Make A Stand will be ridden by Tony McCoy and is well but I don't know if he's going to handle the ground as they are watering and he would prefer it on the fast side," Pipe said, "but

he's earned his place in the line-up, and Pridwell could sneak a place again."

It may be significant, though, that this trainer looked elsewhere when asked to nominate his best chance of a winner next week. "You can't have bankers at Cheltenham as it is much too difficult," he said, "but White Sea (Triumph Hurdle) is very good and has to be one of my best chances over the three days," explained the trainer. White Sea appeared to receive a somewhat lacklustre ride from Swan at Newbury last month when the filly finished second to Kerawi, but the Irishman will keep his place next week.

If his luck is in, meanwhile,

that winners are not the only measure of a good Festival. Three of his runners failed to return from last year's meeting, including Draborgie, who broke a leg when favourite for the Arkle Trophy.

Or Royal, like Draborgie, one of Pipe's many imports from the French jumping circuit, will contest the same race on Tuesday. "He's very, very well but he's got it all to do as he's got [David Nicholson's] Mulligan to beat and that's a tall order as that is likely to be most people's banker of the week on what he's done so far. But whatever happens, what matters is that the horses come back in one piece."

A wider role for new job at BHTA

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

The Sports Council has decided that the responsibilities of a performance director for equestrian sports will now have to cover all three Olympic disciplines: show jumping, dressage and three-day eventing. The position had been announced – and advertised – as one concerned with eventing only.

The British Horse Trials Association had been preparing to interview four applicants when the Sports Council, who will be funding the appointment, decided to extend the parameters. The vacancy will, therefore, be re-advertised, probably with more emphasis on training rather than administrative skills.

Giles Rowell, chairman of the three-day event selection committee, said: "We have to abide by the rules to get the money." However, the change of goalposts seems likely to make the new appointment less fruitful for eventing than the one originally envisaged.

Britain's leading event riders are at Stoneleigh, attending a three-day course sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, with Chris Barrie instructing in dressage and Graham Fletcher in show jumping. Those taking part are likely to include the entire British team for September's European Open Championships at Buryton, where Rowell will also fill the role of *chef d'équipe*.

In previous years the selectors have usually required those looking for a place on the championship team to compete at Badminton in May. This time, however, they are being given a free rein to plan their itineraries, albeit in the knowledge that good form in Badminton's four-star event will count for more than any performance – however impressive – in a three-star contest, such as Saumur in France or Punchestown in Ireland.

THREE-DAY EVENT RIDERS (in bold) (see page 21)

Samaranch to stand for re-election

Olympic Games

Juan Antonio Samaranch confirmed yesterday that he will stand again for re-election as president of the International Olympic Committee.

Samaranch, who turns 77 in July, will bid for a fourth term in one of the key positions in sport. If he wins, the Spaniard, who has a reputation as a diplomat as well as a shrewd businessman, has the chance to complete 21 years in office after taking over the job in 1980.

However, Samaranch, who has a chance to continue only because his Latin allies in the organisation managed to force a vote to raise the IOC age limit in 1995, said he would be in charge for the last time at an Olympic Games in Sydney in the year 2000.

"It was not a difficult decision. I like what I do. It is not a sacrifice to be president of the IOC," Samaranch said after the IOC announced that its four vice-presidents were putting his name forward to the vote in September.

If he completes his fourth term in office, Samaranch will be 81 by the time the next election takes place in 2001.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP QUARTER-FINALS FIRST LEG

Barcelona v Anderlecht (7.30pm)

Paris St-Germain v Athletico

SK Brann Bergen v Liverpool (7.30pm)

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP FIFTH ROUND

Dundee United v Partick Thistle (7.30pm)

DUNDEE LEAGUE: United 1-0, Dundee 0-0

sport

'Unless we go to a system that suits us, four at the back and four in midfield, we might as well get the next plane home'

An enterprise which Terry Fenwick remembers with some satisfaction is the dressing-room mutiny he led during the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico when it looked as though England would be humiliated by elimination before the knock-out stages.

At the squad meeting called after a 1-0 draw against Morocco (England were defeated by Portugal in their opening game) saw Ray Wilkins sent off and Bryan Robson disabled by the recurrence of an old shoulder injury. Fenwick argued boldly against the strategy drawn up by England's manager, Bobby Robson, and his chief assistant, Don Howe.

Pointing out that serious positional problems were being caused for him and his fellow centre-back, Terry Butcher, by the advanced deployment of England's full-backs, Fenwick

said: "Unless we go to a system that suits us, four at the back and four in midfield, we might as well get the next plane home." Improving considerably as a result, England qualified by defeating Poland and went on to a quarter-final against Argentina.

Considering that football managers generally are averse to outbreaks of independence my first thought at the time was that Fenwick had placed his international future in jeopardy. This was possibly the case because although he turned out twice more in the tournament it saw the last of his 19 international appearances.

Incidentally, after confronting Robson, and while still on his feet, Fenwick shot a backward glance to see if anyone was with him. The only voices raised in support were those of Peter Reid, now manager of Sun-

derland, and the former West Ham centre-half, Alvin Martin. "I'm sure others agreed with me," Fenwick said when we spoke last week, "but it was disappointing that only two had the guts to stand up and be counted."

As Fenwick is now making significant progress as manager of Portsmouth with a further opportunity for advancement on Sunday when Chelsea visit Fratton Park in the FA Cup quarter-finals, a good question is how much independence would he tolerate in the quest for collective understanding. "Well, there has to be room for input," he smiled.

The remark reminded me of a instructive tale told by an outstanding coach, Alan Brown, who managed Burnley, Sheffield Wednesday and Sunderland. "At Burnley one of our most successful free-kicks came



KEN JONES

from an idea put forward by the shiest apprentice," he said.

One advantage Fenwick holds over the seven other surviving managers in the FA Cup, all of whom have yet to collar a major trophy, is the assistance of a chairman who knows what he is talking about. In

for a pound when he took control of Portsmouth recently, Terry Venables was at Derby last weekend running an astute eye over Portsmouth's Cup opponents.

Having grown up under Venables at Crystal Palace along with five other members of the club's youth team who went on to achieve full international status, Fenwick is understandably grateful for his chairman's occasional interventions. "In fact I'd be happy to see Terry on the practice ground more often," he said. "He's got such a terrific mind for the game that you can always learn something from him."

What Fenwick has already proved is that he can stand up for himself in adversity. Earlier in the season, when things were not going well, he came in for a great deal of adverse com-

ment. In common with all managers he discovered that most newspaper critics are naturally perverse, and admiration is wrung from them only by a particularly impressive performance. Hearing the Pompey Chimes does not entirely blank out the fact that it isn't so long since he was under fire from disgruntled supporters.

One thing Fenwick can refute personally is that all those who make a name for themselves in sport today become so conceited as to become unconsciously ungrateful. The youngest, at 35, of the Cup's surviving managers, he said: "It isn't a case of feeling humble, but I appreciate the opportunity that came along here."

Some shrewd signings, including David Hillier, picked up cheaply from Arsenal, the former soldier, Lee Bradbury, and Mathias Svensson, who

Baulch wonder over one lap

Mike Rowbottom meets the Welsh sprinter whose rise takes another stride at tomorrow's world indoor championships

Jamie Baulch still winces at the recollection of his last experience at the Palais-Omnisports in Paris-Bercy, where he returns tomorrow in search of the world indoor 400 metres title.

The 23-year-old Welshman, whose unbeaten run indoors this season has established him as Britain's clearest medal prospect, crashed to the track in the 400m final of the 1994 European indoor championships after a collision that arose partly from his lack of experience. Baulch, whose main achievement until then had been winning a world junior sprint relay gold medal in 1992, recalls the moment when his French challenge ended shortly before the bell for the final lap.

"Everyone broke across the track and then the Russian guy caught his feet up with mine," he said. "I fell so hard, there was no way I could continue. I was almost crying. If I remember rightly, I had hurt my arm and my knee."

"I was very inexperienced. I didn't know how to run a 400 properly. But I think I've moved on from there in the last couple of years."

That is an understatement. Since his setback, Baulch, with the coaching assistance of fellow Welshman Colin Jackson, the world high hurdles record holder, has established himself as one of the leading British one-lap runners at a time when his skill in that event is at an all-time high.

Last season, after winter training with Jackson and Linford Christie in Australia, Baulch lowered his 400m outdoor best to 44.57sec, missing out on an individual place at the Olympic trials but earning a silver medal in the Atlanta relay alongside Roger Black, Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas.

This year, after another highly profitable sojourn Down Under,

'Sometimes when guys are winning they can't handle it when they lose'

I have had defeats. As a junior I was very small and I was always, always losing. But in a way, I think it was a good thing for me that I learned to take a beating.

"I've had some real disappointments, of course. Seeing Roger and Iwan run in the Olympic final and thinking 'It could have been me', that wasn't fun. But things don't get to me too deep. I'm not one of those people who mope around thinking 'Oh God, I didn't do this. I didn't do that.' I just like to get on with things."

Jamie, adopted when he was five months old by Marilyn and Alan Baulch and brought up in Cwmbran, clearly has a natural resilience: a natural ebullience, too. His habitual grin

from beneath ginger dreadlocks has been one of the cheeriest features of a troubled new year for British athletics.

The key to his advance, he maintains, lies in the work he has done with some of the best sprinters in the world. "I've listened a lot this winter, and everything I've been told I've remembered," he said. "Once you've got down to 44.5 for the 400, that is the way you improve."

"Lots of things that Linford said to me, I thought, 'Oh God, it's so easy.' He was setting the training routines for everyone, and running along with us. He would tell us to tilt our hips as we came round the 200 metres bend. Or he would say that when you get to 20, 30 metres, you are at your full speed, so why try to run any faster? I would get to 50 metres and then try to kick, which would slow me up. It seems obvious now I think about it."

"If you are training with someone who is trying too hard you will tense up yourself. If you are with experienced runners like Linford or Frankie Fredericks you can't believe how relaxed they are and that rubs off on you."

Linford is 5ft 3in and I am 5ft 8in, so when I am running next to him I'm doing everything I can to match his stride, to do what he is doing by picking my knees up. You get into good habits."

Profitable habits, as well. Last month Baulch earned his biggest single payday so far - £12,000 - by winning the Ricoh Indoor Grand Prix. "It's come all of a sudden for me," he said. "If I ever get to the level where Colin and Linford are, I would love it, but I haven't really thought about it to be honest. I'm not going to Paris for money. I just want a title."

Jamie, adopted when he was five months old by Marilyn and Alan Baulch and brought up in Cwmbran, clearly has a natural resilience: a natural ebullience, too. His habitual grin

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

five Tests and four one-day internationals lie ahead in the coming eight weeks here.

The grind has taken its toll. The fast bowler Jagavajra Srivastava has sought treatment for the recurring tendinitis in his shoulder and the choice of a little-known off-spinner, Noor David, as his replacement shows that he is irreplaceable.

West Indian fast bowlers have also suffered from the itinerary.



High-stepping: Jamie Baulch lifts his feet and sprints in the 400 metres. Photograph: Peter Jay

West Indies and India start test of character

Cricket

TONY COZIER
reports from Kingston

While Australia and South Africa battle out what they term "The Real Decider", an ocean away the West Indies and India start a Test series here today without such grandiose claims. The West Indies are just back from losing "The Decider" in

Australia and can only erase the notion that they are a waning power through a convincing triumph over opponents who have never travelled well. On six previous Caribbean tours, India have won just twice in 26 Tests.

As the West Indies struggled in Australia, India's aversion to foreign fields was being exposed in South Africa where they capitulated in the first two Tests before having the better of the third.

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

five Tests and four one-day internationals lie ahead in the coming eight weeks here.

The grind has taken its toll. The fast bowler Jagavajra Srivastava has sought treatment for the recurring tendinitis in his shoulder and the choice of a little-known off-spinner, Noor David, as his replacement shows that he is irreplaceable.

West Indian fast bowlers have also suffered from the itinerary.

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

five Tests and four one-day internationals lie ahead in the coming eight weeks here.

The grind has taken its toll. The fast bowler Jagavajra Srivastava has sought treatment for the recurring tendinitis in his shoulder and the choice of a little-known off-spinner, Noor David, as his replacement shows that he is irreplaceable.

West Indian fast bowlers have also suffered from the itinerary.

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

five Tests and four one-day internationals lie ahead in the coming eight weeks here.

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

five Tests and four one-day internationals lie ahead in the coming eight weeks here.

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in the past five months. Another

This will be a real challenge for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the limit by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in

Part-timers ready for Liverpool test

Football

Liverpool continue their campaign to join the élite band of teams to win all three European competitions when they travel to Norway to meet Brann Bergen in the quarter-finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup tonight.

The part-timers of Brann have not played a competitive match since October—although that game completed an impressive two-leg victory over the Dutch League leaders PSV Eindhoven. They have spent the last two months training in warmer areas of Europe, most recently in Spain where they played against Spanish First and Second Division sides.

Kjell Teisfjord, the Brann coach, will look to his strikers Tore Andre Flo and Mons Ivar Mjelde to continue their prolific

partnership. Flo scored 19 goals last season while Mjelde has already recorded six in this European campaign.

Mjelde has had a bad dose of fits, but should recover in time for the match. However, two players who definitely will not be taking part are the Icelandic international goalkeeper Birki Kristinsen and the midfielder Jan Ove Pedersen, who were not re-registered in time after playing away on loan.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, will be delaying naming his team until as late as possible, but will have to shuffle his defence. The Norwegian defender Bjørn Tore Kvarme is ineligible while Mark Wright injured a leg in Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Aston Villa and has not travelled with the side to Norway. Phil Babb and Neil Ruddock look likely to step in alongside Dominic Matteo.

More grief for Robson

Barcelona may have to use their third-choice goalkeeper Júlio Lopetegui for their European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final home leg against AIK Solna tonight.

The Portuguese international Vítor Baía suffered a neck injury in training on Tuesday, while his understudy Carlos Busquets is still recovering from a knock. Bobby Robson, the club's coach, was left with no choice but to call up Lopetegui, compounding the former England manager's problems.

Barcelona were stunned at the weekend by their 4-0 Spanish League defeat at Tenerife, a result that left Robson's side nine points adrift of the leaders, Real Madrid.

Apart from Vítor Baía, Robson will also be without the midfielder Oscar García, and possibly the Portuguese 'de-fender' Fernando Couto through injury. Emmanuel Amunike is cup-tied because of previous appearance for his former side, Sporting Lisbon.

However, Robson will be able to call upon the services of his key striker Ronaldo, who

missed last week's Spanish Cup game against Atlético Madrid because of international duty with Brazil.

Ronaldo may enjoy himself against AIK, a team regarded as one of the softest options remaining in the competition.

The difference between the two sides may become more evident due to the Swedes' lengthy winter lay-off.

Stefan Söderberg, the AIK manager, said yesterday that he was pleased with his team's performance in a Scandanavian club competition held in Cyprus last week. AIK reached the final, which they lost, but beat Norway's Lillestrom 5-3 in the semi-final.

The Swedish international defender Patrik Englund has not played since a knee ligament operation last October. "We're facing one of the best teams in the world on Thursday, so anything we can do to disrupt them is positive," Söderberg said.

Italy's Fiorentina will be hoping their Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta rediscovers his form for tonight's Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final with Benfica.

With both teams struggling in their domestic leagues, success in Europe offers the chance of

salvaging some glory from a disappointing season.

Fiorentina, with the usually prolific Batistuta suddenly finding scoring difficult, are languishing 12th in the Italian League, only five points clear of the relegation zone. Benfica are third in Portugal—but are 14 points adrift of the leaders, Porto.

"It is a challenge that is going to stimulate both sides. We are going to do everything possible to make the next round," Manuel José, the Benfica coach, said.

Both teams have injury problems and several key players cannot be used because they have already played for other teams in Europe this season.

The Brazilian midfielder Amaral, formerly of Italy's Parma, and the Dutch winger Glenn Heijnen, the former Arsenal player, will both be watching from the stands where they could be joined by Benfica's playmaker Valdo, who has injured his right leg.

Fiorentina will be without the former Everton winger Andrei Kanchelski and the injured midfielder Massimo Orlando, but the Italians will be happy enough if Batistuta, their inspirational captain, can rediscover his touch in the first leg.

The Argentine has been criticised for some poor performances recently, but his coach, Claudio Ranieri, believes he will prove his worth against Benfica, twice winners in the European Cup but looking for their first Cup-Winners' title.

"Gabriel [Batistuta] is not the sort of player who gets depressed. I think you'll find that he has a great wish to prove to everybody that he is still the same Batistuta," he said.

Paris St-Germain will be looking for a face-saving victory over AELX Athènes in their Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg tonight.

The holders, aiming for a fifth successive European semi-final, sank to a new low on Saturday with elimination to the French Cup by fourth division amateurs Clermont.

PSG came through one cri-

sis earlier in the season when they beat Galatasaray 4-0 at home in October to reach the quarter-finals 6-4 on aggregate.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Yesterday

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Bristol City 1; Coventry 1; Derby County 1; Ipswich Town 1; Middlesbrough 0; Millwall 2; Charlton 1; Nottingham Forest 2; Preston North End 1; Sheffield Wednesday 1; Southampton 1; West Ham United 1; Wigan 1; Wrexham 1.

LEAGUE CUP: First round: West Ham 2; Birmingham City 1; Liverpool 2; Manchester City 1; Newcastle United 1; Nottingham Forest 1; Sunderland 1; West Ham United 1.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division: Barnsley 1; Bradford City 1; Birmingham City 1; Blackpool 1; Bolton Wanderers 1; Bristol City 1; Burton Albion 1; Cheltenham Town 1; Chesterfield 1; Doncaster Rovers 1; Grimsby Town 1; Hartlepool United 1; Hereford United 1; Hull City 1; Ipswich Town 1; Leyton Orient 1; Macclesfield Town 1; Mansfield Town 1; Merton 1; Notts County 1; Oldham Athletic 1; Peterborough United 1; Plymouth Argyle 1; Port Vale 1; Shrewsbury Town 1; Stockport County 1; Stevenage 1; Sutton United 1; Tranmere Rovers 1; Walsall 1; Welling United 1; Wimborne 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ELEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWELVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTEEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FOURTEEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTEEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTEEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTEEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTEEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETEEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWENTY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION THIRTY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FORTY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FIFTY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SIXTY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION SEVENTY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION EIGHTY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION NINETY-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-NINE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TEN: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-ONE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-TWO: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-THREE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FOUR: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-FIVE: Shrewsbury Town 1; Walsall 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE HUNDRED-SIX: Shrewsbury Town 1

One lap wonder
Mike Rowbottom meets the rapid
Jamie Baulch, page 24

sport

Pompey times
Ken Jones talks to Terry Fenwick
about management, page 24

No complaint by Reed over replacement

Football

ADAM SZRETER

Mike Reed, the Birmingham referee at the centre of the storm surrounding Chelsea's extra-time penalty winner against Leicester in their FA Cup fifth-round replay last week, has refused to be drawn on the decision by the Premier League to replace him for the Chelsea-Leicester match at Stamford Bridge next month.

Reed's decision incensed the Leicester fans and his car, which also contained members of his family, was attacked at traffic lights in London on the way home. On Monday police expressed reservations about the wisdom of Reed being allowed to referee the game on 19 April because of fears for his safety. It led to the Football Association saying it was "likely" that Reed would be replaced if a request was made by the police.

Ferguson refuses to release players

GUY HODGSON

The perennial club versus country dispute will be aired again this summer when Alex Ferguson refuses to release his Manchester United players for England duty.

England's coach, Glenn Hoddle, will need his powers of persuasion to prevent the international tournament in France descending into no more than a run out for his reserves.

Fifa, the world governing body, confirmed yesterday that English club managers will be free to withdraw their players from the tournament, which begins on 3 June and is classified as a series of friendly matches. As such club managers have the right to refuse to release their

players. Ferguson has said he will exercise that right while Liverpool's manager Roy Evans has described the event as "crazy".

England are due to meet Brazil, Italy and the host country over 10 days in June but Ferguson has already said his players will not be available. Ferguson said: "This summer will be a rest for Manchester United players. Some of them will be playing in World Cup qualifiers on 8 June. We can't do anything about that but we can about the others."

"Over the last few years we've played an average of 50 games and this season will be no different. Then there are internationals and friendly internationals. It's such a strain and with young players it can't be done."

However, it was the Premier League which took the decision to axe Reed. A statement read: "The FA Premier League have decided to appoint a replacement for Mike Reed for the Chelsea-Leicester City game in April. The decision has been taken after careful consideration of the various factors involved and in consultation with the appropriate interested parties."

Reed said: "I have no comment to make. The statement from the Premier League says it all. That's enough as far as I am concerned." When asked if he was happy with the decision, he repeated his previous comments.

Leicester's manager Martin O'Neill branded the 117th-minute penalty decision, which led to Chelsea's defender Frank Leboeuf scoring the winner from the spot, as "disgraceful". O'Neill and his Chelsea counterpart, Ruud Gullit, came out against the use

of technology to aid officials and the possibility of taking up that option was ruled out by Fifa at its weekend annual meeting.

O'Neill also said at the weekend that he was happy for Reed to take charge of the next meeting of the two clubs.

Two FA charges against Bruce Grobbelaar will remain on the books while the goalkeeper and his fellow-accused await the outcome of any re-trial in the Winchester Crown Court match-fixing case.

Meanwhile, it looks certain that the FA will redraft its rules governing betting on games. "Everything is on hold until the full criminal proceedings have been completed," the FA spokesman Steve Double said. "We are constantly reviewing FA rules, including those relating to betting and that was made clear some time ago."

Roger Stanislaus yesterday scrapped plans to launch his return to football with the Second Division strugglers Notts County following his 12-month drug ban. The 28-year-old former Brentford and Leyton Orient defender, who became the first English footballer to fail a drugs test in February last year, was lined up to play for County's reserves against Wolves last night. However Stanislaus, who was sacked by Orient after testing positive and has been training at Meadow Lane this week, decided to withdraw from the game.

Sam Allardyce, the County manager, had earlier indicated he would consider offering Stanislaus, who was banned for 12 months after testing positive for cocaine in December 1995, a contract if he had shaped up well in the game.

Nicolas Anelka, Arsenal's 17-year-old signing from Paris St-Germain, made his debut for the Gunners in yesterday's reserve-team game against Norwich City as a half-time substitute after his international clearance arrived during the first half of the match.



Greg Norman prepares to take on the world's best golfers today in the Doral-Ryder Open in Miami. Photograph: AP

Pressure for Ryder Cup change

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3239, Thursday 6 March By Mass

1	2	3	4	5	6
7		8	9		
10		11			
12	13	14			
15	16	17			
20	21		22		
23					
25	26				

Wednesday's solution

L	I	N	S	H	N
E	N	D	O	M	A
T	O	U	N	C	N
W	O	N	E	A	E
H	O	L	I	B	R
O	R	E	N	O	N
U	N	C	E	N	T
C	U	N	E	C	A
E	N	T	E	A	N
S	E	N	T	E	N
A	N	E	T	E	N
M	E	N	E	E	N
O	E	N	E	E	N
D	E	N	E	E	N
S	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N	E	E	N
I	E	N	E	E	N
N	E	N	E	E	N
C	E	N	E	E	N
H	E	N			